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Characters



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Public Characters of 1798.



T. Dunn Sculpt.

Published by R. Phillips, N°71, St. Paul's Church Yard, London.

PUBLIC

CHARACTERS

OF

1798-9.

A NEW EDITION.

ENLARGED AND CORRECTED TO THE 25TH OF MARCH, 1799.

" — — — — — I wiſh no other herald,
" No other ſpeaker of my *living actions*,
" To keep mine honour from corruption,
" But ſuch an honeſt chronicler — — —."

HEN. VIII. Act 4. Sc. 2.

" —— Hic nigræ ſuccus loliginis; hæc eſt
" Ærugo mera; quod vitium procul afore chartis,
" Atque animo prius, ut ſi quid promittere de me
" Poſſum aliud vere promitto."

HORACE, Sat. i. 4. 100.

TO BE CONTINUED ANNUALLY.

LONDON:

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TO THE KING,

THESE

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS

OF SOME OF THE

MOST DISTINGUISHED OF

HIS MAJESTY'S SUBJECTS,

ARE MOST HUMBLY

AND MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED;

BY HIS MAJESTY'S

DUTIFUL SUBJECTS AND SERVANTS,

THE EDITORS.

London, April 10th, 1799.

In September next will be published, the Second *Volume of this Work, consisting of Memoirs of living Public Characters of* 1799-1800.

ERRATA.

Page 156, 13th line from the top, for "in the Summer of 1768," *read* "in the Summer of 1758."

Page 161, 5th line from the bottom, for "reflecting the greatest honour his on hsad and heart," *read* "reflecting the greatest honour on his head and *heart.*"

Page 260, *line 13, for* "Thurcaston, in Lincolnshire," *read* "Thurcaston, in Leicestershire."

PREFACE

TO THE

FIRST EDITION.

THE object of the Work which is now ſubmitted to the Public, is to exhibit, in the memoirs of the illuſtrious actors, the public and ſecret hiſtory of the preſent times. Reſpectable works, of a ſimilar deſcription, have been publiſhed in various countries on the continent; none, however, have hitherto been attempted, upon the ſame plan, in this country.

BIOGRAPHY, in all its forms, is allowed to be the moſt faſcinating and inſtructive ſpecies of literary compoſition. It not only poſſeſſes all the advantages of general hiſtory, the various excellencies of which may be judiciouſly interwoven with the lives of eminent perſonages, but it frequently diſcovers the minute and latent ſprings of great events, which, in the comprehenſive range of Hiſtory, would have eſcaped attention.

Many of the attractions of Biography in general, and ſome additional advantages, are poſſeſſed by *contemporary Biography*. The memoirs of men, who are the preſent actors on the great theatre of life, who acquire and demand public confidence, and from whom further reſults of action or meditation are to be expected, neceſ-

ſarily excite a higher degree of curioſity, than the lives of thoſe who have made their exit from the ſtage, by whom no future good or evil can be performed or perpetrated, and who, "dead, gone, and forgotten," are generally carried down the ſtream of oblivion, and ſwallowed up in the gulph of unregiſtered mortality.

It muſt be admitted, that the biographer of deceaſed perſons is better enabled, by the independence of his ſituation, and a more extenſive retroſpect, to eſtimate the degree of virtue and vice, and to appreciate the ſum total of merit and demerit with greater preciſion, than the contemporary biographer, who is reſtrained, by the extreme delicacy of his undertaking, from giving the finiſhing ſtroke to his delineations of character, whoſe incomplete materials prevent him from deducing general and important concluſions in their proper latitude, and, in many caſes, from diſcriminating between hypocriſy and ſincerity. Still, however, a writer of this deſcription is better able to collect facts, and may, in general, be more depended upon, as to the authenticity of his teſtimony, than he who writes the lives of deceaſed perſons. Many eminent men, reſpecting whom poſterity have cauſe to lament the deficiency of biographical information, have paſſed their early days in obſcurity, and thoſe who then knew them were either too ignorant, or too unobſervant, to be able to make any communications reſpe

them. When death has once ſet his ſeal upon their labours, few or no opportunities offer of obtaining ſatisfactory and circumſtantial information; their early contemporaries are, probably, alſo gone off the ſtage. From cauſes like theſe, how little is known of ſome of the moſt diſtinguiſhed luminaries that have irradiated the political and literary hemiſpheres! Of many we know only that they filled elevated ſituations, that they compoſed ſplendid works, made important diſcoveries, died in a particular year, and were at length interred in ſome venerable repoſitory of the dead.

An annual publication like the preſent will beſt provide againſt a future deficiency of this kind, with reſpect to the diſtinguiſhed perſonages who now fill up the drama of public life in the Britiſh empire. The Editors are not likely to commit themſelves, and the reputation of their work, by inſerting direct falſehoods, or partial miſrepreſentations: no character, of whom they now or may hereafter treat, can be thought inſenſible to the love of contemporary or poſthumous fame; hence, ſhould any undeſigned error, or any inaccurate ſtatement, inadvertently eſcape them, it may be rationally preſumed, that the party affected, from a regard to his own reputation, will take the earlieſt opportunity to correct ſuch miſtatements; or that ſome friend, intimately acquainted with the ſubject, in the candour and warmth of eſteem, may be ſtimulated to

write a more particular and accurate account, for a ſubſequent edition.

From theſe premiſes * may it not be reaſonably concluded, that this Work poſſeſſes a legitimate claim to public patronage, as well from its promiſed utility to future biographers and hiſtorians, as from its being an highly entertaining and uſeful aſſemblage of intereſting and important facts and anecdotes?

In reſpect to the preſent volume, it is neceſſary to remark, that the articles are written by a number of gentlemen, whoſe adopted ſignatures are affixed to their reſpective communications. Such a multiplicity of facts, in ſo extenſive and various a group of characters, could not have been ſupplied by any one or two individuals. Although a delicate taſk, the mode generally adopted in the compoſition of this Work, has been to apply to ſome friend of the party, whoſe intimate knowledge of the relative facts and circumſtances qualified him to do ample juſtice to the character. This indiſpenſible arrangement, requiſite to produce the faithful execution of the volume, has, however, occaſioned a variety in the ſtyle and manner of the ſeveral articles, which, at firſt ſight,

* Beſide other arguments which may be urged in recommendation of this novel undertaking, the Editors *might quote* the example of ſome of the moſt illuſtrious men in all ages and nations, who have judged it proper to write their own memoirs, and to publiſh them during their lifetime.

may

may give it a ſort of heterogeneous appearance, but will not detract from its real merit in the eſtimation of the judicious reader.

It is poſſible that a faſtidious obſerver, or other perſon more intimately connected with the ſubject of the ſeveral memoirs, may here and there detect ſome venial error, ſome trifling anachroniſm, or apparent miſconſtruction; for theſe the Editors can only atone, by expreſſing their earneſt wiſh for more correct information, which will be thankfully received, and punctually attended to in a future edition. That ſome inaccuracies are unavoidable in a work of this nature, muſt naturally be expected by every perſon accuſtomed to habits of literary compoſition, or who poſſeſſes ſufficient knowledge of the complicated occurrences which mark the career of public and private life.

The Editors are more ſeriouſly apprehenſive leſt, in any inſtance whatever, they ſhould unfortunately and unintentionally be a means of wounding the acute ſenſibility, the laudable ambition, or the generous pride of any individual: —no procedure could be more alien to their wiſhes and intentions. Any repreſentation on the part of thoſe who may think themſelves aggrieved, which may be tranſmitted to the Editors, ſhall be treated with marked deference and attention. The moſt ſcrupulous caution has been exerciſed, to diveſt the *tout enſemble* of every appearance of national and political partialities. *No attachment*

to

to any particular ſet of men or opinions, no prejudices againſt men in place, no prepoſſeſſions in favour of men out of place, no bias towards any controverted points of theology, no perſonal antipathies, no invidious diſpoſition to detract from acknowledged virtue or merit, have influenced, in whole or in part, the conduct of the Projector and Conductors of the Work.

If the preſent volume ſhould be *honoured* by a degree of approbation and patronage correſpondent to the anxious wiſhes and expectations of the Editors, it is their deſign to preſent the Public with a ſimilar volume in the courſe of the year 1799, and to continue the work in each ſucceeding year. That there will be abundant materials for ſuch a continuation muſt be obvious, when it is conſidered, that the following illuſtrious and prominent characters are omitted in the preſent volume, only for want of room or competent materials: the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Lanſdowne, the Duke of Grafton, the Duke of Bedford, Lord Kenyon, Mr. Erſkine, Mr. Sheridan, Lord Grenville, the Duke of Portland, Earl Howe, Earl St. Vincent, Lord Bridport, Lord Auckland, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Wilberforce, Sir Joſeph Banks, Mr. Weſt, Earl Spencer, Earl Fitzwilliam, Mr. Haſtings, Mr. *Wyndham*, the Earl of Lauderdale, Lord Somerville, *and nearly* three hundred other eminent and remarkable perſons, connected with the political and literary world.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

THE rapid and almoſt unprecedented ſale of the firſt edition of theſe Memoirs has ſtimulated the exertions of the Editors, and enabled them to lay a NEW EDITION *before the Public, which is enlarged, corrected, and improved, in every article. The alterations are, indeed, ſo very conſiderable, as to render the Work almoſt entirely new; and they are derived from ſources ſo undeniably authentic, as no leſs to have increaſed the value of the Volume, than they have obviouſly added to its bulk. Although it cannot be aſſerted, that all the Characters, even in the new edition, are drawn with an equal degree of accuracy and preciſion, the candid and well-informed reader will, however, acknowledge, that as a collection of new and original facts, the Work has a ſtrong claim to public attention.*

The ſame endeavour to avoid giving place to impertinent and injurious calumnies, which was ſo ſucceſsfully exerted in the firſt edition, has prevailed in the conduct of the ſecond. The Editors ſhould, indeed, think they never could ſufficiently atone to any individual, whoſe feelings they might injure through inadvertence or miſinformation. Again and again they earneſtly intreat the communication of errors, or miſtatements, that theſe may be properly inſerted in future editions, or ſubjoined as addenda to the preſent.

*** *Communications for the Second Volume, or Corrections of the preſent, are requeſted to be addreſſed, without Delay, to Mr.* PHILLIPS, *No.* 71, *St. Paul's Church-Yard.*

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PUBLIC CHARACTERS

OF 1798.

EARL MOIRA.

Juſtum et tenacem propoſiti virum,
Non civium ardor prava jubentium,
Non vultus inſtantis tyranni,
Mente quatit ſolidâ, neque Auſter
Dux inquieti turbidus Adriæ,
Nec fulminantis magna Jovis manus:
Si fractus illabatur orbis,
Impavidum ferient ruinæ. HOR.

FRANCIS, Lord Rawdon, Earl of Moira,—a name worthy to be pronounced by men of all parties, with reſpect,—was born on the 7th day of December, in the year 1754.

Even in infancy, he began to exhibit eminent marks of that ardour and firmneſs of ſoul, which are the primary ingredients of heroiſm. Like the great Turenne, he conceived an early paſſion for the perils and the darings of a military life. During the progreſs of his education, his favourite boyiſh amuſements were imitative of the arts of war. At ten years of age, he was ſeverely wounded in the leg, by the burſting of one of ſeveral braſs guns, which he was eagerly pointing, to batter an old folio volume. In the books which were put into his hands; human characters, remark-

able for calm intrepidity in the midſt of dangers; for fortitude under the extremity of human ſuffering; for a courage kindling into bolder exertion and keener enjoyment, in proportion as the oppoſition it encounters, becomes more terrible; were thoſe which chiefly intereſted his curioſity, excited his admiration, and inflamed his heart with emulative ambition.

He delighted to commit to memory, and would often repeat, with high emotion, ſuch ſentiments, as thoſe in which Zanga, in the tragedy of the *Revenge*, is made to triumph, in expectation of the agonies of the rack; or that with which Damien contemplated the approach of the day for his execution, and its cloſe *; or that of the Spaniſh proverb, which aſſerts, that the *laſt* of human ills, however otherwiſe formidable, yet, becauſe it is the *laſt*, is ever to be regarded as a light one †. His education was conducted, with every advantage, which his rank and fortune could beſtow, for the culture of youthful qualities of ſuch fair promiſe; yet, without being directed to encourage his infant paſſion for martial enterprize. His ardour for military glory, was, however, confirmed and augmented, while he advanced to manhood. Foreign travel, through thoſe countries on the continent, which have been long accounted the favourite ſeats of refinement, gave the laſt poliſh to his manners,

* *La journée ſera dure—mais elle ſe paſſera.*

† *Ningummal a'ya granda, ſi es poſtero.*

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and a farther enlargement to his ſentiments, before his entrance into public life. About the time of the commencement of the American war, he became an officer in the Britiſh army.

With his regiment, he gladly embarked for America. In the memorable battle of Bunker's-hill, he ſerved in the condition of lieutenant of the fifth company of grenadiers. He was one of only ſeven, out of the whole company, who remained unhurt in that action. But, two ſhots, received in his cap, ſufficiently evinced, that he had braved danger to the very teeth. And, it was the judgment of the late General Burgoyne, that this young nobleman had, even on the day of Bunker's-hill alone, atchieved enough to cover his whole life with glory *. He was afterwards preſent in the enterprize of ſtorming Fort Clinton.—He was known, during the life of his father, by the title of Lord Rawdon: And this name became famous, in the diſpatches which were received from America, in the courſe of the war.

Merit, ſo eminent, at ſo early an age, was ſufficient to juſtify any rapidity of military promotion, which the wealth and influence of his family could command for him. In the year 1778, before he had completed the full age of four-and-twenty; he roſe to the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the army; and was appointed adjutant-general to the

* General Burgoyne's words, in his official diſpatch, were, *Lord Rawdon has this day ſtamped his fame for life.*"

Britiſh forces under the command of Sir Henry Clinton. In the hazardous retreat of the Britiſh army from Philadelphia, through the Jerſeys, to New York, he ſignalized his valour, activity, and judgment, in this new command, by ſervices of great importance to the ſafety of the troops. He acquired new honour, by his conduct in the action at Monmouth. His behaviour, during the ſiege of Charleſtown, diſplayed ſo many eminent proofs, as well of military prudence and ſagacity, as of activity and courage; that, notwithſtanding his youth, and the ſhortneſs of the time for which he had been in actual ſervice; he was now judged worthy of a ſeparate command; and was ſent, at the head of a body of troops, to act in the province of South Carolina. The American general, Gates, had invaded this province: and the part aſſigned to Lord Rawdon, was, to check the progreſs of the rebel army, until Lord Cornwallis ſhould arrive, with a force ſufficient to repulſe them. With a diſcernment and ſkill, highly honourable to his military talents, Lord Rawdon poſted himſelf, with his ſmall force, in a ſituation from which he could, for eight-and-forty hours, ſecurely defy the more powerful army of the Americans, to battle. Had Gates ventured to attack him in this encampment; there was little doubt, but the Britiſh troops would have proved deciſively victorious. In their relative local circumſtances, Lord Rawdon might even have aſſailed the Americans, with great probability of ſucceſs. But with the

coolneſs,

coolneſs, prudence, and ſelf-denial, even rather of an old commander, than of a young officer impetuous in the purſuit of glory; he choſe to await the arrival of Lord Cornwallis; inſtead of riſking an action, which might, indeed, have been, in its event, eminently glorious to himſelf; but which, it was alſo poſſible, might have proved unfortunate, and would, in this caſe, have diſconcerted all the plans of Lord Cornwallis.

Gates, retiring, endeavoured, by a circuitous march, to deprive Lord Rawdon of thoſe local advantages, which he had ſo ſkilfully ſeized. In the mean time, Lord Cornwallis came up; and the new movements of the Americans, were perceived to have thrown them into a condition, in which it was likely, that they might be defeated. The action at Camden, was conſequently fought. Lord Rawdon, now under Lord Cornwallis, led on one of thoſe diviſions which were the firſt engaged; and, by his intrepidity, and promptitude of reſolution, here merited new laurels. The Americans were entirely routed: and the Britiſh forces gained one of the moſt deciſive victories, which it was their fortune to obtain, in the whole courſe of the war. Lord Cornwallis, afterwards marching into North Carolina, left Lord Rawdon, with but a handful of troops, to maintain the ſouthern province. The American generals, Sumpter and Marion; at the head, each, o a body of forces, more numerous than thoſe which Lord Rawdon had to oppoſe to them ;broke into South Carolina,

in the month of February, 1781; invoked its inhabitants to riſe in arms, for the rebellion; greatly haraſſed this ſmall Britiſh army; threatened to cut them off, to make them priſoners of war, or at leaſt to drive them from the territory. Lord Rawdon's military talents were never more ſplendidly exerciſed, than upon this occaſion. By a ſeries of rapid marches, and daring exertions, he diſappointed all the efforts of the rebels; worſted them, in ſeveral ſevere conteſts; and, within the ſpace of leſs than ten days, expelled them out of the diſtrict which they had invaded.

In the month of April following, another American army advanced under the command of General Greene, againſt the Britiſh troops, which, under Lord Rawdon, ſtill held poſſeſſion of South Carolina. While Greene kept his army encamped on Hobkirk-hill; his lordſhip, anticipating the coming up of the American artillery, and the arrival of reinforcements which Greene expected to join him; reſolved to attack the rebels in their camp, though with a very inferior force. The choice of a circuitous line of march, concealed his approach from the enemy. He reached the moſt acceſſible ſide of the hill on which they lay, before they were at all aware, that he was about to aſſault them. Greene, however, with great alertneſs, drew out his forces to encounter the aſſailants: And when he perceived, with what a narrowneſs of front, the Britiſh advanced to the attack; he confidently expected a deciſive victory. Diſcerning, at once,

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the plans of the American commander; Lord Rawdon, with great promptitude of thought and reſolution, oppoſed to theſe, ſuch a new arrangement, and ſuch movements, of the Britiſh troops, as were fitted, effectually to defeat them.—Perhaps, after all, the attempt of the Britiſh, was one which nothing but the very difficult and critical ſituation of their affairs in the province, could fully juſtify.—The Americans deſcended down the hill, under the protection of a very heavy fire of grape-ſhot, from their artillery. An extenſion, however, of the Britiſh front-line, utterly diſconcerted the American plan of attack. The Britiſh impetuouſly drove them back, purſued them to the ſummit of the hill, ſilenced their cannon, and, ſoon totally routed the whole American army. The victory was obſtinately diſputed: it was, dearly earned: leſs than Lord Rawdon's intrepid courage, and fertile invention in military reſources, would have been unequal to the difficulties of the occaſion *.

Yet, Lord Cornwallis found it, ſoon after, neceſſary, to evacuate the province of South Carolina: And in conſequence of the indiſpoſition of his lordſhip's health, at that time, the conduct of the retreat devolved upon Lord Rawdon. It was attended with the ſevereſt hardſhips; the want of the neceſſaries for ſubſiſtence, a fatigue which the weakneſs of hunger was but ill-fitted to undergo, diſeaſe inceſſantly thinning their numbers, an enemy active to

* See "Stedman's Hiſtory of the American War," vol. II. p. 356-8.

haraſs or ſurround them, local difficulties of which the clear and open ſtate of almoſt all European countries can convey no juſt idea. The circumſpection, foreſight, and unſparing perſonal exertion, with which this gallant leader watched over the ſafety of the Britiſh troops, during this retreat, and *finally accompliſhed its object*; as they were among the moſt eminent proofs which have ever been exhibited of military genius and ſkill; ſo are they greatly above our praiſe. It became, afterwards, neceſſary for him, to evacuate Camden. For ſome time ſubſequent, he continued, with great vigilance and activity, to purſue and haraſs the movements of General Greene. When it appeared, that the farther proſecution of this plan of operations, would be fruitleſs; his lordſhip then returned to Charleſtown.

In the diſtrict of Charleſtown, he, for a while, held a command. During this period, an unpleaſing act of public juſtice was executed, under the authority of Lieutenant-colonel * Balfour, as commander within the town; on account of which, ſome unmerited blame was, afterwards, thrown out againſt Lord Rawdon. Iſaac Haynes, an American, had been made priſoner, when Charleſtown, was taken by the Britiſh forces. He voluntarily took the oath of allegiance to the Britiſh Government,—and was ſet at liberty. In violation of his oaths, he ſoon after, began to in-

* Now lieutenant-general.

trigue

trigue for the ſervice of the rebellion. Obtaining the rank of lieutenant-colonel of the American militia; he ſeduced a whole battalion of loyaliſts to deſert with him, to the rebels. His treachery was detected, when he was in the act of carrying it finally into execution, at the critical moment of the near approach of the enemy to aſſault the town. Thus flagrantly guilty, Haynes was brought to trial, before a Court of Enquiry; was convicted; and condemned to death. Lord Rawdon, with generous humanity, endeavoured, privately, to procure an application from the loyaliſts, in favour of the unhappy criminal, which might obtain his pardon from Lieutenant-colonel Balfour. But, Sir Egerton Leigh, Attorney-general for the province, entirely defeated this benignant expedient, for the reconciliation of mercy with public juſtice, by declaring, that—"he would ſooner cut "off his right hand, than ſign a petition ſo injurious "to his Majeſty's intereſts." When particularly aſked, indeed, by Lieutenant-colonel Balfour, in private, Lord Rawdon could not help giving his reluctant opinion, merely as a Britiſh officer, in favour of that which the intereſts of military diſcipline, ſeemed in this inſtance, imperiouſly to demand. Haynes was executed. How unjuſtly, this execution has been branded with the charge of cruelty; and with what falſity, Lord Rawdon has been accuſed, as its author; cannot but ſufficiently appear to the reader, from what the

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moſt unqueſtionable authority has enabled us here to ſtate *.

The exceſſive heats of the climate, for ſome time after, compelled the Britiſh troops to remain in a ſtate of inaction. Lord Rawdon's health had been greatly impaired; and he fell into a dangerous indiſpoſition. One deſtined march was, on account of his illneſs, countermanded. His zeal for the ſervice, made him renew the directions for that march, immediately after his recovery out of a fainting fit; though

* It was known by every body in Charleſtown, that Lord Rawdon ſecretly encouraged Mr. Alexander Wright, and Mr. Powel, two eminent loyaliſts, to procure a petition from their body, in favour of Colonel Haynes.—We ſhall alſo add Lord Moira's own recent account of this tranſaction, as an additional proof of his delicate notions of reſponſibility.

"The learned lord (1) has brought the caſe of Colonel Haynes "to juſtify the ſyſtem which has been carried on in Ireland. Let "me ſtate to your lordſhips what the caſe was: *Iſaac Haynes* "had been taken at the capture of Charleſtown. He was ſuf- "fered to go on parole to his own houſe. He was not contented "with remaining a priſoner on parole; he voluntarily came "forward, and took the oath of allegiance. He ſoon began to "intrigue; and obtained the command of colonel of militia, "in the enemy's army. He corrupted a battalion of our mili- "tia, which had been enrolled and atteſted. He was detected "carrying them off, at the very moment when the enemy were "coming down upon us. He was tried by a Court of Enquiry, "and executed. But it is neceſſary to inform your lordſhip's, "that this Court of Enquiry was the only criminal court known "in the country. It was adopted from the example of the "enemy; and was ſo far ſuperior to a Court-martial, that the "officer who preſided in it was reſponſible for every efficient "act."—*See Earl Moira's ſpeech in the Iriſh Houſe of Lords.*

(1) Lord Clare.

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he was ſtill too weak to proceed, otherwiſe than in the conveyance of a cart, out of which he iſſued his orders. But his ill health became, amidſt theſe exertions, continually worſe; and he was compelled to ſeek the only probable remedy, by returning to the climate of England. Embarking for Europe, in a packet-veſſel; he was captured, on his paſſage, by the *Glorieux*, a French man-of-war, belonging to the fleet of *De Graſſe*; and was ſent, on board a frigate, to Breſt. At length, he arrived ſafe in Britain; where his great ſervices were acknowledged, and his heroiſm univerſally admired. He was created a Peer of Great Britain; and was nominated *Aide-de-camp* to the King.

From that time, till the æra of the commencement of the preſent war, Lord Rawdon's life was paſſed in a manner ſufficiently honourable to his rank, and to the high military character which, at ſo early an age, he had dearly earned. In conſequence of the death of his uncle, the Earl of Huntingdon; he ſucceeded to the eſtates of this ancient and noble family. On the occaſion of this ſucceſſion, he was permitted by his ſovereign, to aſſume the arms and name of the Haſtings's, Earls of Huntingdon. The moſt eminent perſons in theſe kingdoms, have cultivated his friendſhip. An intimacy highly honourable to both parties, has long ſubſiſted between the Prince of Wales and his lordſhip. The Duke of York choſe Lord Rawdon, without the recommendation of a previous intimacy, and ſolely on account of his high

character

character for delicate and unblemiſhed honour, to be ſecond to his royal highneſs, in his well-known affair with Colonel Lenox. On the death of his father, he ſucceeded to the title and eſtates of the earldom of Moira in Ireland.

He had riſen, before the commencement of the preſent war, to the military rank of Major-general. It was, therefore, naturally expected, that he would not fail to be among thoſe general officers, who ſhould, in the courſe of it, be called out into actual ſervice, and intruſted with high command. He was not, however, ſelected to act with the Duke of York, upon the continent. But, about the end of the year 1793, he was nominated to the command of a ſeparate body of troops; which were encamped in the vicinity of Southampton, and were deſtined, in conjunction with the embodied emigrants, to certain offenſive operations againſt France. The misfortunes of the allied arms, on the continent, occaſioned the Britiſh miniſtry to relinquiſh the original deſign with which theſe troops had been aſſembled, for the ſake of ſending them to reinforce the army under the command of the Duke of York. In obedience to orders which were officially communicated to him, the Earl of Moira ſailed, with this force, for Oſtend. He conducted their debarkation, and purſued his march up the country, with a generalſhip ſo ſkilful, that the enemy, ſuppoſing his army to be, at leaſt four times as numerous, as it really was; ſuſpended, on this account, the execution of a plan of attack, which they had premeditated,

meditated, againſt the Britiſh line of poſts, in Weſt Flanders. Without artillery, with very little baggage, through a country which was not open to his movements, in the preſence of a terrible foe, hanging upon his flanks, and conſtantly menacing interruption, Earl Moira advanced, with aſtoniſhing rapidity, and not without the moſt prudent vigilance, till he effected a very ſeaſonable junction of his own ſmall force with the army of the Duke of York. Had it not been for the error in which the enemy, a while, remained, in reſpect to the ſtrength and number of his troops; and for the celerity and dexterous addreſs with which every motion of the march was managed; it was impoſſible but Earl Moira muſt have been, in the execution of this ſervice, beſet and overpowered by the French. His Quarter-maſter-general, the late General Doyle, ſeconding him with the greateſt activity, happily ſeized the town of Bruges, at a time, when, but for this atchievement, the enemy might have eaſily hindered him from proceeding farther. In the vicinity of Ghent, this ſmall band was, again, in danger of being cut off. But, from the town of Aloſt, they gallantly repulſed the French, who had already entered it. For three days ſubſequent, Earl Moira remained maſter of this place: nor did the French dare to make any vigorous efforts to diſlodge him. The whole ſeries of theſe movements, ſo checked the enemy, as effectually to cover the retreat of the main Britiſh army. Earl Moira, then, joined the Duke of York, at Malines near Antwerp;

and

and was there received by his royal highneſs, with every mark of cordiality and friendſhip.

He returned, ſoon after, to England; and was, again, conſigned to inactivity. A nominal command at Southampton, with little effective authority, was *all that the miniſtry* thought proper to leave to him, till the ſummer *of the year* 1795. The temporary charge of a body of Britiſh troops, encamped on the road to Rumſey, was, then, committed to him. Several battalions of French emigrants, were, at the ſame time, diſtributed in the neighbourhood of Southampton. A deſcent upon the coaſt of Brittany, was projected. The emigrants, under the command of the *Comte de Puiſaye*; a Britiſh detachment under Major-general Graham; were embarked for this expedition. The unhappy emigrants landed at Quiberon, *to meet deſtruction! The Britiſh troops*, having been *driven by ſtorms*, to the weſtward, eſcaped the fate of the emigrants, and did not land. In the errours and diſaſters of this ill-planned and unfortunate expedition, the Earl of Moira had no part.

During his command at Southampton, his expenditure out of his private fortune, exceeded the ſum of thirty thouſand pounds! Yet, with ſingular delicacy, he ſhunned the acceptance of pay, patronage, or any other emolument, for all that *period* of his command, during which the troops in his camp, were kept in a ſtate of *indeciſion* that did not promiſe real ſervice. If the expences of his

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ſtaff-eſtabliſhment, were, as has been alledged, burthenſome and extravagant beyond example; the ſource of this, is probably, to be found, not in any thing dependent upon his lordſhip's will, but in the unſuitable arrangements made by thoſe, to whoſe controul he was himſelf neceſſarily ſubject *. However ambitious of military glory, Earl Moira has ever been ſo far from diſcovering any avarice of military emolument; that, when a regiment was offered to him, during the ſhort adminiſtration of the Marquis of Buckingham, he refuſed to accept this promotion, ſolely on the ground, that there were older and more deſerving officers, on whom it might be, more properly, conferred. He has never ſince obtained a regiment. Even his enemies will not affect to deny, that he has amply earned one.

It is not only, as a military man, equally brave to act and ſkilful to command, that the Earl of Moira has been eminently diſtinguiſhed. As a member of the Upper Houſe of the Legiſlature, both in Britain and in Ireland, he has often taken an upright and ably diſcriminating part, in the higheſt legiſlative and judicial deliberations. Not content to give an unexplained and unſupported vote; he has choſen, on all important occaſions, to

* Lord Moira has always ſpoken very handſomely of the conduct of adminiſtration towards him, during his command at Southampton, excepting in the one inſtance of the expedition to Quiberon. The myſtery obſerved on this occaſion hurt him much.

unfold

unfold the nature and the grounds of his principles of decision, in manly, graceful, and dignified eloquence; to which it has been impossible even for his enemies to listen, otherwise than with the most profound and respectful attention.—Compassionating the severe distresses of persons imprisoned, at the pleasure of their creditors, for small debts; he has had the noble humanity to introduce into parliament, a bill for their relief; which its reason, its benignity, and the interesting eloquence with which he recommended it, have procured to be enacted into a law; and which, while it shall continue to adorn our parliamentary records, will be a noble monument of his philanthropy and wisdom.

The connections of private and of political friendship; dislike to a policy, which threatens to establish a permanent distinction of interests between the higher and lower ranks of society; perhaps a generous resentment of the conduct of ministers who could be, by any motives, determined to deny to him, in a season of war, those opportunities of earning new laurels in the military service of his country, for which his soul passionately burned, and of which he had proved himself to be sufficiently worthy; concern for those political dissensions, by which the Irish nation was convulsed, and which threatened, even to rend the British empire in pieces; that very magnanimity of his nature, which would not allow him to believe all the poor to be incorrigibly wicked:—Such reasons, probably, as these,

have

have engaged him in an oppoſition, both in Britain and Ireland, to the meaſures and views of the preſent miniſtry. Yet, his has not been that ſelfiſh oppoſition, which would rather, that miniſters ſhould purſue bad meaſures to their own ruin, than that they ſhould be the authors of good ones, fitted to accompliſh the ſalvation of their country. Expecting, that thoſe plans of conceſſion and conciliation, of which Earl Fitzwilliam was believed to have gone to Ireland, as the miniſter, might remove every grievance, compoſe every difference, and indulge, in particular, the Catholics, with all thoſe immunities which were not incompatible with the ſecurity of the rights of their fellow-ſubjects; he was willing to lend to that nobleman's adminiſtration, his moſt zealous ſupport. But, when, by the ſudden recal of Earl Fitzwilliam, thoſe ſanguine hopes were diſappointed, which the Iriſh had been encouraged to conceive; Lord Moira ſeems to have very anxiouſly anticipated, with the eye of political and patriotic ſagacity, all the miſchiefs, which were, unavoidably, to reſult from a miniſterial conduct, ſo tantalizing and capricious. Too ſoon, were the worſt auguries more than fulfilled, which the fears of patriotiſm had taken up, concerning the progreſs of Iriſh affairs. The ſeditious and unprincipled beheld, with joy; while the ſtorm of diſſatisfaction and diſcontent gathered, ſtill more and more powerful, among the Iriſh; till it was big with all the energies of a mighty electrical ſhock, about to burſt forth from the boſom of the earth. They ſeized the fatal moment, to

inſinuate their projects of conſpiracy, of rebellion, of the ties of connection between Britain and Ireland, to be cut aſunder by the arms of France. A people, whoſe political hopes, the Britiſh miniſtry had, ſo cruelly, firſt, excited, and then fruſtrated; could not reſiſt the deluſive ſeductions with which they were thus aſſailed. Diviſion from Britain; amity with France; a Republican form of Government; became, very extenſively, the favourite objects of the political wiſhes of the Iriſh. With a celerity, which deceived the vigilance, even of thoſe who watched over the welfare of their country, with the moſt patriotic anxiety; the principles of conſpiracy and rebellion, quickly pervaded all Ireland; took poſſeſſion of the ſhop of the tradeſman, the cottage of the peaſant, the pulpit of the diſſenting miniſter, the confeſſional of the catholic prieſt; and with wonderful boldneſs, ferocity, and unanimity of concert, advanced towards the entire completion of their hopes. For a while, however, their progreſs was not ſuch, but that a beneficent change of meaſures, on the part of the Britiſh miniſtry, might have, eaſily, arreſted, and reverted it. During this critical ſeaſon, Earl Moira ſtood ſtrenuouſly forth, both in Ireland and in Britain, in order, if poſſible, to perſuade miniſters, ere it were yet too late, to adopt, in combination with energy and vigilance, that lenient and benignant ſpirit of government, which might, alone, without the bloodſhed of civil war, diſpel the lowering ſtorm. He knew, that miniſters, even while they vehemently contended againſt the propoſitions of their oppo-

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nents, had, not ſeldom, deigned to ſteal inſtruction from them, and to act upon their views. And he might therefore indulge hopes, that, upon an occaſion ſo critical and important, as that which now called forth his exertions,—as much might, perhaps, be done. He was diſappointed. Miniſters were reſolute, both in Britain and in Ireland, to perſevere in thoſe violent and coercive meaſures, to which the miſcarriage of their former plans had already forced them to have recourſe. The evil was found to have already taken deeper root, and ſpread itſelf wider, than Earl Moira had ſuppoſed. With that exalted magnanimity of honour and virtue, which refuſes even to imagine the exiſtence of the loweſt turpitude of human nature; with that *charity which thinketh no evil*; he had believed the Iriſh peaſantry to be leſs univerſally the ſworn accomplices of rebellious conſpiracy, than they were ſoon found to be. For even while he was haſtening to ſeek the redreſs of their wrongs, the miſchief which he deſired by this redreſs to cruſh, had diffuſed itſelf with the activity of a peſtilence: Even on his own Iriſh eſtates, thoſe peaſants towards whom he had endeavoured to act the part, as it were, of a beneficent mediator, had devoted themſelves to all the atrocities of maſſacre and inſurrection. Becauſe he was thus benignantly miſtaken, a baſe occaſion has been taken to inveigh againſt the honeſty and the wiſdom of his counſels. Perſons who had obſerved, that wiſdom, wit, truth, and eloquence, when delivered to the world, through the preſs, in fa-

vour of an adm iſtration, might uſefully aid its cauſe; fancied, that *their* ribaldry, falſehood, and compoſition diſgraced by every deformity that can make letters diſguſting or ridiculous, might ſerve our preſent miniſters as well; and like a herd of obſcene Yahoos, attacking one of their reaſoning ſuperiors, have dared to ſputter out their nonſenſe and malignity againſt Earl Moira. But attacks ſo mean and feeble, can ſcarce have power to provoke even his contempt. Nothing, it is to be devoutly hoped, will ever make him ſhrink from thoſe active duties of a patriotic ſenator, which he is ſo eminently qualified to diſcharge. That thoſe crimes and miſeries of the Iriſh, which he ſtrove in vain to prevent; that the dangers of the criſis, into which the affairs of both Britain and Ireland have been, unhappily brought; that the misfortunes of a war, which ſeems big with ruin to all Europe; muſt deeply affect Earl Moira's ſoul, beyond all the concerns of his private intereſt, or even reputation;—it is utterly impoſſible to doubt!

Earl Moira is amiable in private, no leſs than great in public life. His manners are marked by that lofty, yet gracious and winning politeneſs, which is adapted to beſpeak to any perſon, even at firſt ſight, the true nobleman. Delicacy of ſentiment, gallant intrepidity, high honour, and melting generoſity, have ſeldom been more conſpicuous in any other character, than in that of Lord Moira. His liberality, in ſome ſignal inſtances, was, not long ſince, upon the occaſion of a ſuit

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at law—in which, however, his lordſhip had no concern—declared by a judge from the bench,—no doubt, upon good information,—*abſolutely to exceed all bounds.* His courage and fortitude are not barely the armour of the mind, to be put on, only for the perils of warfare, and the darings of battle. They, eaſily, and without affectation, accompany him, in all the incidents of ordinary life. One of his friends, witneſſing the firmneſs and indifference with which he endured a ſingularly painful operation upon one of his eyes, could not help expreſſing his belief; that—"if Lord Moira were condemned to be be-"headed,—he would, certainly; beg it, as a matter "of favour, to be, firſt, expoſed to the torture of "the rack!" * The tenor of his lordſhip's familiar life, has, in it, much of ſimple unaffected dignity. He is an early riſer; and his mornings, before the hour for breakfaſt, are allotted to the diſpatch of buſineſs, to the care of anſwering letters—as he receives them, and to the benign taſk of paying the moſt gracious attention to thoſe numberleſs appli-

* Perhaps there cannot be cited a more ſtriking inſtance of that lofty and fearleſs gallantry of honour, which is the moſt eminent quality in the character of Earl Moira, than that which was diſplayed by him, when he had the honour to attend the Duke of York, as his ſecond, in the affair with Colonel Lenox. Colonel Lenox, and his ſecond, the Earl of Winchelſea, in going to the field, had a poſt-chaiſe diſpoſed in readineſs for eſcape, in caſe of any fatal event. Earl Moira, then Lord Rawdon, ſeems to have thought it unworthy of his honour, to uſe ſuch a precaution; but went out to the field, with a reſolution to abide the conſequences, however unfortunate they might prove.

cations for patronage or relief, which the reputation of his benevolence, naturally invites. His forenoons are, in the country, chiefly dedicated to the amuſements of agriculture ; into all the detail of which he enters, with great eagerneſs and intelligence. Formerly, when he was wont to take, more frequently, the diverſion of hunting, he was diſtinguiſhed as a *ſingularly fearleſs rider*, and uſed to outſtrip all the country-gentlemen, in the chace. He keeps houſe, with the liberal hoſpitality becoming an Engliſh nobleman. His table is ſplendidly and ſumptuouſly ſerved: but, he himſelf partakes of its pleaſures, with extraordinary temperance. His company uſually withdraw from the dining-room, to the library: and the evening is then given, either to converſation, ſuch as unites the feaſt of reaſon and the flow of ſoul, or, perhaps, by every different perſon, to private ſtudy. Lord Moira himſelf has, by reading, by converſe, by an extenſive obſervation of *nature and ſociety*, acquired a ſtore of knowledge ſo various, ſo juſt, and ſo profound, as to have been very rarely equalled among men of his rank and habits of life. He is remarkable as a *voracious reader*. A new book falling into his hands, ſeldom fails to engroſs and abſorb his attention, till he has thoroughly maſtered its contents, and, as it were, has *torn the heart out of it*. In converſation, he diſplays a mingled pride and modeſty; willing to expreſs his ſentiments, but ſcorning to obtrude, and rarely deigning to defend, them; never dictatorial nor pertinaciouſly diſputative;

tive; but ſhunning with a dignity, which ſometimes borders on haughtineſs, to deſcend to the level of common converſational diſcuſſions. Into the details of buſineſs of all ſorts, he is capable of entering with uncommon patience, diſcernment, and perſeverance. If interrupted, however often, by the calls of friendſhip or of other buſineſs; he is ever ready to leave his unfiniſhed taſk; to enter, with the moſt obliging and entire attention, into the new avocation, while it preſents itſelf; and, then, when this interruption has ceaſed, to return to that from which he had been called, with a mind as completely in poſſeſſion of its former part, as if nothing had interpoſed to divert him from it. Even his enemies have never been able to withhold their reluctant homage from his talents and public virtues. It is generally underſtood, that he might have held high official employments, even in the preſent Adminiſtration, if he had not been unwilling to eſpouſe the principles, and to aſſociate himſelf in the reſponſibility, of its leaders.

Nothing, as it is ſaid, ever more acutely wounded Earl Moira's feelings, than that breach of the confidence of private friendſhip, by which his lordſhip's letter to Colonel M'Mahon, was laid before the Public. It had been ſubmitted to the peruſal of certain political friends, under the ſtricteſt injunctions againſt farther communication, which could be impoſed on the honour of a gentleman. Happily, its publication has, with men of candid diſcernment, only ſerved to do new honour to his lordſhip's character.—He is, alſo, known to the world, as an eminent member of the fraternity of Free Maſons.

The benevolence of their inſtitution, is, probably, that which chiefly attaches him to it. Were there even no other teſtimony in favour of Free Maſonry; the Public would not be eaſily perſuaded to look upon *that* to be big with ſecret miſchief, *which* is openly eſpouſed by Earl Moira. The book againſt it, which was produced by a certain Scotch Profeſſor, himſelf an Apoſtate Free Maſon, muſt, to all perſons of cool ſagacity, have carried its refutation in its own boſom. In the addreſs to his Majeſty from the Grand Lodge, there was made, in the name of all the Maſons in England, a deciſive and unequivocal declaration of thoſe principles of loyalty and friendlineſs to ſocial order, which, as it ſhould ſeem, enter deeply into the ſpirit of Free Maſonry; but which, the abhorrence of the Fraternity, from all pragmatical intermeddling in politics, muſt hinder them from officially proclaiming, unleſs upon an occaſion that is ſingularly extraordinary.

On the *whole*, we cannot but think, that it will be eminently advantageous for our country, if the great qualities of Earl Moira ſhall be, at *any* future time, called out into leading employment, in either its civil or its military ſervice. The late Earl of Huntingdon uſed to ſay, that Lord Moira was calculated by nature rather to deſerve than to attain high and reſponſible ſituations: And we contemplate, with peculiar pleaſure, a character which bears, ſo remarkably, the impreſſion of genuine indefeaſible nobility, at a time when the duties required of our nobles are ſo arduous.

S. S.

MR. ROSCOE.

THE hiſtory of the author of the Life of Lorenzo dê Medicis, evinces the wonderful effects which reſult from aſſiduous induſtry, ſuperadded to the rapidity of genius. Favoured by no advantages of education, foſtered by no patronage, raiſed by the native energies of his mind alone, Mr. Roſcoe has reached a pitch of literary eminence, which is rarely attained even by thoſe who have made the beſt uſe of the privileges of academic inſtruction.

His parents moved in the humbler ſphere of life; they were, of courſe, precluded by their circumſtances from giving their ſon a very extenſive education; and, with a ſtrange perverſeneſs of temper, he himſelf obſtinately refuſed to attend at the day-ſchool where his father wiſhed him to be taught writing and arithmetic. In conſequence of this untoward event, he did not enjoy even the common opportunities of acquiring knowledge, uſually poſſeſſed by thoſe of the ſame ſtation in life as himſelf. He was thus fated to be the architect of his own fame.

But though he threw off the trammels of the ſchool, he was not idle:—he read much, and thought more.

At an early age he was articled as clerk in the office of Mr. Eyes, an attorney, in Liverpool. Soon after this period he was ſtimulated to undertake the ſtudy of the Latin language, by one of his

his companions boaſting that he had read Cicero *de Amicitia*, and ſpeaking in high terms of the elegance of the ſtyle and ſentiments of that celebrated compoſition. Mr. R. immediately procured the treatiſe in queſtion; and ſmoothing his difficulties by perpetual reference to his grammar, as well as to his dictionary, he drudged through the taſk which emulation had incited him to undertake. The ſucceſs experienced in his firſt effort prompted him to proceed; and he did not ſtop in his career till he had read the moſt diſtinguiſhed of the Roman claſſics. In this purſuit he was encouraged by the friendly intercourſe of Mr. Francis Holden, an eccentric but excellent ſcholar.

Having made conſiderable progreſs in the Latin language, Mr. R. ſtill without the aſſiſtance of a maſter, proceeded to the ſtudy of French and Italian. The beſt authors in each of theſe tongues ſoon became familiar to him; and it is ſuppoſed, that few natives of the country poſſeſs ſo general and recondite a knowledge of Italian literature, as the ſubject of the preſent memoir.

During the whole of this period, Mr. R. regularly attended at the office: his ſeaſons of ſtudy were the intervals of buſineſs.

His attachment to the muſe was of a very early date. While yet a boy he read with avidity the works of the beſt Engliſh poets. Of their beauties he had an exquiſite ſenſe; and it may eaſily be imagined that the firſt of his compoſitions were of the poetical claſs. "Mount Pleaſant," a de-

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ſcriptive poem, which he wrote in his ſixteenth year, is a record not only of the fertility of his genius, but of the correctneſs of his taſte.

Soon after the expiration of his clerkſhip, Mr. R. was taken into partnerſhip by Mr. Aſpinwall, a very reſpectable attorney of the town of Liverpool; and the entire management of an office, extenſive in practice, and high in reputation, devolved upon him alone. In this ſituation he conducted himſelf in ſuch a manner as to gain univerſal reſpect: for, notwithſtanding his various purſuits, he had paid ſtrict attention to his profeſſion, and acquired a liberal and minute knowledge of law. In ſhort, in clearneſs of comprehenſion, and rapidity of diſpatch, he had few equals.

About this time he commenced an acquaintance with the late Dr. Enfield *, and the preſent Dr. Aikin, both of whom were then reſidents at Warrington, the former being tutor in the *belles lettres* in the academy there, and the latter eſtabliſhed as a ſurgeon in that town. Theſe gentlemen were early ſenſible of his ſurpriſing talents, and they contracted with him a friendſhip which was ſure to be laſting, as it was built on the ſolid baſis of mutual eſteem.

Mr. R. ſeems to have been early gifted with a correct taſte in the arts of painting and ſtatuary. On the 17th of December, 1773, he recited before

* When Dr. E. publiſhed the ſecond volume of the Speaker, Mr. R. furniſhed him with an Elegy to Pity, and an Ode to Education.

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the ſociety formed in Liverpool, for the encouragement of deſigning, drawing, painting, &c. an ode, which was afterwards publiſhed, together with his poem entitled Mount Pleaſant. Of this ſociety he was a very active member, and occaſionally gave public lectures on ſubjects appropriate to the object of the inſtitution.

When the voice of humanity was raiſed againſt the ſlave-trade, Mr. R. fearleſs of the inconvenience to which the circumſtances of his local ſituation might expoſe him, ſtood forth a zealous and enlightened advocate for the abolition of that inhuman traffic. In his boyiſh days, indeed, he had expreſſed his feelings on this ſubject, in the following charming lines, which are extracted from the poem already alluded to, page 40 :

—— There Afric's ſwarthy ſons their toils repeat,
Beneath the fervors of the noon-tide heat;
Torn from each joy that crown'd their native ſoil,
No ſweet reflections mitigate their toil;
From morn to eve, by rigorous hands oppreſt,
Dull fly their hours, of every hope unbleſt:
Till broke with labour, helpleſs and forlorn,
From their weak graſp the ling'ring morſel torn;
The reed-built hovel's friendly ſhade deny'd;
The jeſt of folly, and the ſcorn of pride;
Drooping beneath meridian ſuns they lie,
Lift the faint head, and bend th' imploring eye;
Till death, in kindneſs, from the tortured breaſt
Calls the free ſpirit to the realms of reſt.
Shame to mankind! but ſhame to Britons moſt,
Who all the ſweets of liberty can boaſt,

Yet,

Yet, deaf to every human claim, deny
That bliſs to others which themſelves enjoy:
Life's bitter draught with harſher bitter fill,
Blaſt every joy, and add to every ill;
The trembling limbs with galling iron bind,
Nor looſe the heavier bondage of the mind.

Thus by his own reflections, Mr. R. was prepared to enter with ardor into the views of the friends of ſuffering humanity. He had frequent converſations with Mr. Clarkſon, who firſt drew the attention of the kingdom at large to this national diſgrace. A ſpecious pamphlet was publiſhed in defence of the trade, entitled, "*Scriptural Reſearches into the Licitneſs of the Slave-trade*," and written by a Spaniſh Jeſuit of the name of Harris. Mr. R. anſwered it with great ſpirit and acuteneſs, in a counter-pamphlet, called "*A Scriptural Refutation of a Pamphlet lately publiſhed by the Rev. Raymund Harris.*"

But this copious and intereſting ſubject awakened all his ſympathies, and the public were gratified by a moſt affecting poem, entitled, "*The Wrongs of Africa*," which Mr. R. intended to complete in three parts. The two firſt appeared in 1787, and 1788, but the lovers of genuine poetry have to lament that he has not yet fulfilled his promiſe of favouring them with the third.

A mind ſo active and generous as Mr. R.'s could not remain unintereſted in that ſtupendous event, the French revolution. He of courſe caught the enthuſiaſtic glow that warmed the breaſts of the friends

friends of freedom, while they beheld a mighty nation throwing off the fetters of deſpotiſm; and fondly hoped that the conſequences of their exertions would be laſting peace, good order, and equal laws. He even tuned the lyre on this bewitching theme, and proclaimed the praiſes of Freedom in a tranſlation of one of Petrarch's odes, which found its way into the *Mercurio Italico*; a ſong intitled, "*Millions be Free*;" and the famous poem, "*The Vine-covered Hills*," which may be claſſed among the moſt finiſhed compoſitions in the Engliſh language.

During the ſeaſon of tumult and diſcord, which ſucceeded the attempt of the combined powers to reinſtate, in the plenitude of its authority, the deſpotiſm of France (an attempt, in which this country, fatally to itſelf, perhaps too cordially united), Mr. R. was buſily employed in writing the Hiſtory of Lorenzo dê Medicis. This work was begun about the year 1790, and it may be preſumed that it has now paſſed through the ordeal of criticiſm, as more than two years have elapſed ſince its publication. The literary world have had time to recover from the dazzle of ſurprize; and the buz of ignorant applauſe, raiſed by the leaders of literary faſhion, is now ſtill. The ſentence of ſober judgment confirms the verdict which was pronounced according to the dictates of firſt impreſſions. The liberal acumen of Parr has aſſayed the Life of Lorenzo, and has found it ſterling gold. Its dignity and grace have ſhielded its au-

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thor from the mercileſs tomahawk of the writer * of the *Purſuits of Literature*; and we may fairly preſume that its rank is fixed among the moſt ſplendid ornaments of Engliſh compoſition.

The admiration with which the public have been affected by the peruſal of this work will, no doubt, be increaſed by a knowledge of the circumſtances in which it was compoſed. At the time when it was projected, Mr. R. lived at the diſtance of two miles from Liverpool, whither he was obliged daily to repair to attend to the buſineſs of his office. The dry and tedious details of law occupied his attention during the whole of the morning and afternoon; his evenings alone, he was able to dedicate to ſtudy: and it will be eaſily conceived, that a gentleman, ſurrounded by a numerous family, and whoſe company was courted by his friends, muſt have experienced, even at theſe hours, a variety of interruptions. No public library provided him with materials. The rare books which he had occaſion to conſult, he was obliged to procure in London at a conſiderable expence. But in the midſt of all theſe difficulties the work grew under his hands, and in order that it might be printed under his own immediate inſpection, he eſtabliſhed an excellent preſs in the town of Liverpool, and ſubmitted to the diſguſting toil of correcting the proofs. The Hiſtory of Lorenzo dê Medicis was, at length, publiſhed early in the year 1796.

* Mr. Mathias.

Soon

Soon after the appearance of his hiſtory, Mr. R. relinquiſhed the profeſſion of an attorney, and entered himſelf at Gray's Inn, with a view of becoming and acting as a barriſter.

He took advantage of the leiſure which the relinquiſhment of buſineſs afforded him, to enter upon the ſtudy of the Greek language; in which, according to the report of his intimate friends, he has made conſiderable progreſs.

The public, with concordant voice, have called upon Mr. R. for the life of Leo X. and the Lords Holland and Briſtol have, with great liberality, offered their aſſiſtance in procuring from Italy, and other parts of the continent, whatever documents he might think it neceſſary to conſult in the execution of ſo grand a deſign. The lovers of polite literature will be glad to hear that Mr. R. has actually begun this work; but ſuch is the troubled ſtate of Europe, that he is debarred, at preſent, from the uſe of materials which might otherwiſe be collected abroad.

Throughout the whole courſe of his life, Mr. R. has uniformly maintained a character of ſimplicity, ſincerity, and benevolence. He acts uprightly without effort. Ill-fated genius cannot plead his hiſtory as a precedent for irregularity of life; nor will his example ſanction the herd of men of abilities, who deem their talents a licence to live in idleneſs, and prey upon the public. His reſources are in his own exertions. He is, in every

every ſenſe of the word, an independent man. Long may he enjoy the bleſſings which are the meed of virtue!

M. N.

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART. L.L.D.

THE Sinclairs of Ulbſter in Caithneſs, are deſcended from the ancient earls of the ſame name, who derive their title from the appellation of the county. The late Mr. Sinclair enjoyed an extenſive eſtate in that remote part of the iſland. His rental is ſaid to have amounted to nearly fifteen hundred pounds a-year. And when we conſider, that ſome of the lands are not, at this day, worth three halfpence an acre; and that in a very favourable year only, will the walnut, there, kernel, or the apricot reach maturity; it may be eaſily ſuppoſed, that it could not be a ſmall tract of territory which produced this income.

John, born in 1754, is the ſon of the *Laird of Ulbſter*, by Lady Jane Sutherland. Being an only ſon, he received the firſt rudiments of his education from a private preceptor, in his father's houſe. While yet a boy, he began to acquire habits of literary induſtry, and to exhibit that taſte for books, and that turn for reſearch, which have eminently marked the character of his life.

Domeſtic tuition had acquainted him with the firſt elements of letters. He was ſent to acquire the

languages of Rome and Greece, at the *High* or *Free* ſchool of Edinburgh. In the celebrated Univerſity of the ſame place, he was, next, taught to exalt his ſtudies, from grammars and vocabularies, to the beauties of compoſition, the principles of taſte, the elements of *ſcientific* truth, the rules of reaſoning, and the grand deductions of moral wiſdom. At the age of fifteen, he wrote ſeveral letters on the importance of the cultivation of eſtates in the highlands of Scotland, which were printed in the *Caledonian Mercury* of that time, and are diſtinguiſhed by an energy of ſentiment, and an elegance of ſtyle, which he has, ſince, ceaſed to ſtudy with equal ſolicitude, and, perhaps, could not now diſplay.

In Scotland, as in England, it has long been uſual for every young man of fortune, either to ſtudy the municipal law of the country, or to ſerve for ſome time in the army, for the purpoſe of finiſhing his education. Mr. Sinclair choſe to ſtudy law. With this view, he went to hear the lectures of Millar, the celebrated profeſſor of Juriſprudence, in the Univerſity of Glaſgow. From Glaſgow, the ingenuous curioſity of a liberal mind, enamoured of literature and ſcience, carried him to viſit the Engliſh ſeminary of Oxford; where he had opportunity to acquire the rudiments of that acquaintance with Engliſh literature and manners, which was to prepare him for acting his part, on a future day, as a member of the Britiſh Houſe of Commons. From Oxford, he returned to com-

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plete his juridical ſtudies at Edinburgh, by the particular ſtudy of the municipal law of Scotland, and by courting admiſſion into the Scottiſh Faculty of Advocates. At this time, he diſtinguiſhed himſelf, as a ſpeaker, in the *Speculative Society*, in which many of the moſt eminent men who have ſtudied at Edinburgh, are well known to have made their firſt eſſays in argumentation and elocution. The political and juridical antiquities of his country, likewiſe, engaged his attention, in a very particular manner, during the ſame period. And he examined, with great ardour and diligence, a number of the *chartularies*, and other written documents of the ancient hiſtory of Scotland, which are repoſited in the valuable library of the Faculty of which he now became a member.

His ſoul was ardently alive to political ambition. His fortune was ample, unincumbered, and increaſing. His family-intereſt was powerful in the county, in which his eſtates were ſituate. He was generally looked upon, as a very promiſing young man. At the firſt general election, therefore, which followed after he had completed his ſtudies, he was choſen to repreſent the county of Caithneſs in the Britiſh parliament. Scarcely had he taken his ſeat in the ſenate, when he evinced an honourable reſolution to diſtinguiſh himſelf by patriotic integrity, by indefatigable application to buſineſs, and by taking a part in the contention of parliamentary debate, whenever he had

had reaſon to think himſelf capable of throwing new light upon the ſubjects under diſcuſſion.

His attempts, as a ſpeaker in the Britiſh parliament, quickly convinced him, that no native of Scotland, could ſucceſsfully aſpire to the praiſe of Engliſh eloquence, without having firſt diſcarded from his ſpeech, the peculiarities of the Scottiſh dialect. He, therefore, applied himſelf to diſcriminate all thoſe impure idioms which the natives of Scotland are apt to introduce, in their uſe of the Engliſh language. He noted down, from time to time, thoſe phraſes, which he thus learned to diſtinguiſh and avoid, as Scoticiſms. Mr. Hume had, before, annexed a liſt of Scoticiſms to an edition of a volume of his eſſays. But Mr. Sinclair's liſt was ſoon far more numerous than that of Hume. Some papers of the late Sir John Henderſon, on the ſame ſubject, were put into his hands. Adding what was moſt valuable, out of theſe, to his own obſervations; he, at laſt, reſolved to publiſh the whole, for the uſe of his fellow-countrymen, in general; though he had, at firſt, had nothing farther in view, than his own private improvement in ſpeech and in writing. The book was not unfavourably received by the world. Men of letters were not ill-pleaſed to ſee a young man of fortune aſſociate himſelf in their purſuits. The honourable pride of the Engliſh, was agreeably flattered, by the conceſſion which the publication of ſuch a work, ſeemed to imply, in favour both of the excellence of their native

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language, and of the ſuperior ſkill and purity with which it was written by themſelves alone. The Scots, ambitious to clear their ſpeech from all diſtinguiſhing peculiarities of dialect, were glad to accept from one of their fellow-countrymen, that aid which they wanted, to enable them to accompliſh this object. The well-known title of this book, is, *Obſervations on the Scottiſh Dialect, by* JOHN SINCLAIR, *Eſq.*

This publication was the reſult of his endeavours to qualify himſelf for the reſpectable diſcharge of his duties, as a ſenator. The ſame principle directed him in an inceſſant application to other uſeful enquiries. A very valuable pamphlet on the *Progreſſive Strength of the Britiſh Navy* in the courſe of the preſent century, was one of the next fruits of his ſtudies, which he preſented to the world. It is replete with uſeful information. And, it has been very properly republiſhed by him, with ſome corrections and additions, ſince the commencement of the preſent war.

But, the *Levying and Expenditure of the* NATIONAL REVENUE, compoſe together, one of the moſt important objects, on which a Britiſh ſenator can have occaſion to fix his attention, in the courſe of his parliamentary duty. Always eminently intereſting to the ſtateſman, the ſubjects of public œconomy had lately begun to be eſteemed not unworthy of the illuſtration of the philoſopher. *Dr. Davenant*, in his various works, had been among the firſt to introduce into this ſtudy, a portion

of ſcientific principles. *Sir James Stewart-Denham*, during a long reſidence in France, had applied himſelf to financial reſearches, with extraordinary aſſiduity and ſucceſs: And, in his POLITICAL ŒCONOMY, he gave to the Britiſh public, a cabinet rich in all the treaſures of this ſcience; but one, in which the ſpecimens were thrown together in aukward diſorder, and were exhibited with the diſadvantage of ores ſtill encruſted with the impurities of the *gangue* in which they were imbedded in their native mine. *Hume* had, in the elegant and unaffuming form of Eſſays, happily unfolded a few of the moſt eſſential principles of financial ſcience, with a beauty and clearneſs of explication, which could not but ſtrike the underſtanding of every reader. *Queſnai*, *Mirabeau*, and the other French *œconomiſtes*, had explored the myſteries of *finance*, with all the rigour, and not without much of the pedantry, of auſtere ſcience; and had framed a ſyſtem of its principles, which, nothing, but partialities and errors naturally occaſioned by that plan of taxation which they witneſſed in France, ſeems to have hindered from being faultleſsly perfect.—*Adam Smith*, the friend, at once, and the generous and reſpectful rival of Hume, the pupil of the *œconomiſtes*, inſtructed by long and inquiſitive converſe with ſome very intelligent merchants of the city of Glaſgow, had exhibited in his book on the WEALTH OF NATIONS, a work in which all the branches of *Public Œconomy* were explained in the

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order, and with the combination, of philoſophical ſyſtem; which united the theory of France, with the practical maxims of the Engliſh; which undeniably advanced financial knowledge to a new height of perfection; yet, which is not free from fundamental errors, and has many obſervations ſcattered through it, which muſt appear to have been dictated, rather by the inclination to find fault, than by the power to ſuggeſt practical amendments. *Turgot* had, with a benignant and ſublime ſpirit of reform, endeavoured to apply the principles of the *œconomiſtes* to actual practice, in the adminiſtration of the *finances* of France: *Calonne*, in the ſame adminiſtration, had artfully attempted to borrow the aid of modern improvements, for the ſupport of ancient abuſes: And *Necker*, with the feebler hand of a Patroclus, had eſſayed to wield the Achillean arms of Turgot: While the contention between Calonne and Necker, the anxious appeals of them both to the tribunal of the European public, and, in particular, the great work of the latter, upon the adminiſtration of the French finances, laid before the world, an invaluable collection of materials, from which might be deduced many new general facts, for the advancement of ſound œconomical ſcience. *Mr. Pitt*, in fine, had begun to apply ſome part of the principles of Hume and Smith, to the management of the buſineſs of the Britiſh treaſury; but with a caution, which wiſely ſcrupled to derange the movements of the practical machine, by too haſty and

raſh an application of the projects of untried theory, to improve them.

Attracted by ſuch views of the importance and the progreſſive improvement of this great branch of political knowledge; Sir John Sinclair next conceived the plan of a *Hiſtory of the Public Revenue of the Britiſh Empire.* The execution of ſuch a taſk, could not but be exceedingly arduous. His indefatigable diligence was, however, equal to any undertaking, that diligence could atchieve. Of this work, he publiſhed, in the year 1789, a *firſt* and a *ſecond* part: The *third* part was given to the world, in the following year, 1790. In this publication, which is no longer to be eaſily found in the ſhops of the bookſellers, he deduces the hiſtory of the Britiſh revenue, from the age of William of Normandy, nearly to the preſent time. He has collected, in it, into one focus, much financial information, that was, before, ſcattered in books, which were commonly in the hands of the public: He has brought into light, many facts, which were formerly concealed from the public eye, in the ſecret receſſes of antiquarian obſcurity, or in the myſteries of office: He has provided, for the uſe of the philoſophical ſpeculator on the ſubject of public œconomy, a body of important information, from which new general truths may, perhaps, be happily deduced. His reſearches have, indeed, been ſometimes miſled: he does not, always, weigh the merits of his evidence, with ſufficient rigour: his arrangement is not without confuſion: in the formation

mation of his ſtyle and manner, he ſeems to have refuſed to ſacrifice to the Graces: his mind ſeems to want the expanſion and energy which are neceſſary to graſp, in its whole extent, the ſcience which he has laboured to illuſtrate: he has, perhaps, in no one inſtance, penetrated to the knowledge of thoſe grand and ſimple elements, which, when once diſcovered, are able, with all the magic power of the taliſman of an Arabian tale, to flaſh a blazing light over the region of murky darkneſs, and with inſtant efficacy, to communicate the ſublime beauty of order, to that which lay, but the moment before, in chaotic confuſion. But, a noble ſpirit of probity and rectitude, breathes throughout his whole work. Its very deſign has the merit of conſiderable originality: For, what prior work can be named, in which the idea of improving the management of an adminiſtration, by the hiſtorical diſplay of the financial experience of paſt times, has been, in any country, ſo fully and diſtinctly carried into execution? His projects for the improvement of the Britiſh revenue; though, in ſome inſtances, indigeſted, like thoſe of other projectors; are, in ſome, of ſuch merit as to have been already adopted into financial practice; and, in others, certainly well deſerve that preference which they have not yet obtained. However imperfect this work may appear, when viewed in compariſon with that ideal excellence which the fancy of a critic, may, without great difficulty, conceive; yet, when it is regarded as

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the fruit of thoſe ſtudies, by which a young ſenator laboured to qualify himſelf for the uſeful diſcharge of his parliamentary duties; and when we reflect, that he ſent it to the preſs, ſolely with the ſincere and ingenuous deſire of making theſe ſtudies more extenſively uſeful to his country; it will be impoſſible for us to withhold from the undertaking, even our higheſt praiſe. He complains of the miniſter, as having denied him acceſs to ſome important information, which it would have been uſeful to make public, but which it was vain to conceal. We believe, that he has, in his ſubſequent reſearches, not ſeldom met with ſimilar difficulties.

To Sir John Sinclair, may be applied, with ſingular truth, the praiſe of

Nil actum reputans, dum quid ſupereſſet agendum.

Soon after the publication of the third part of his Hiſtory of the Britiſh Revenue, he was impelled by the ſame ſpirit of patriotiſm and ardent enquiry which had guided him in his former reſearches, to engage in an undertaking ſtill more extenſive and laborious, for the purpoſe of illuſtrating the preſent ſtate of population, induſtry, knowledge, cuſtoms, arts, manners, and opulence, in North Britain. A taſk ſomewhat ſimilar to this, had been firſt attempted by Sir *Robert Sibbald*, the phyſician, who, in the end of the laſt century, held the offices of *royal* hiſtoriographer and geographer for Scotland. His books, though ſeverely attacked by the malicious criticiſm of his

younger

younger rival, the famous *Pitcairne*, have been, ever ſince, regarded, as invaluable treaſuries of uſeful information concerning the Natural Hiſtory and the Antiquities of his country. About the middle of the preſent century, a conſiderably accurate ſtatement of the population of Scotland, was obtained from the parochial clergy, for the uſe of Government, through the hands of the late Rev. Dr. *Webſter*. *Henry Home, Lord Kaimes*, a man whoſe genius, induſtry, and public ſpirit, can never be ſufficiently praiſed, had procured a general ſurvey of the agriculture of Scotland, to be executed by Mr. Wight of Ormiſton, a very intelligent farmer, at the expence of the Scottiſh Board of Truſtees for Improvements, &c. The late learned Dr. *John Campbell* had included, in his Political Survey of the Britiſh Empire, a good account of the ancient and modern ſtate of Scotland, collected partly from books, and in part from an extenſive and very laborious correſpondence with well-informed Scotſmen. The members of the Scottiſh Antiquarian Society, had begun to communicate, at its meetings, ſketches of parochial hiſtories. The taſte of the age, in general, was turned, every day, more and more, to the inveſtigation of thoſe facts, from which alone, the philoſophical principles of Political Œconomy, are to be ſurely deduced. It was in emulation of ſuch examples, and under the encouragement which this taſte of his contemporaries, appeared to preſent, that Sir John Sinclair undertook to compile that work to which he has

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given the name of a *Statiſtical Account of Scotland*.

His original deſign, in entering upon this undertaking, was, to collect from the communication of the clergy, landholders, and merchants of Scotland, materials for a great and elaborate work which he himſelf purpoſed to compoſe. After making this uſe of ſuch materials as he ſhould obtain, it was his intention to depoſite theſe in ſome public library, in which they might be faithfully preſerved for the inſpection of poſterity. Communicating the plan of this undertaking, ſoon after he had formed it, to Sir *Joſeph Banks* and others of his moſt eminent literary friends in London; he had the ſatisfaction to find, that they eagerly honoured it with their warmeſt approbation and encouragement. The late excellent Dr. *William Robertſon*, and Dr. *Hugh Blair*, both equally the pride of the church of Scotland, warmly recommended Sir John's enquiries to the attention of their clerical brethren. Aſſiſted by an uſeful work, the production of the German Count *Bertchold*; and by ſome papers of enquiries, which had been, before, circulated by Dr. *James Anderſon*; he ſoon prepared, printed, and tranſmitted to all the clergymen, as well as to numbers of the landholders, merchants, and farmers, in Scotland; a ſeries of *queries*, to which he reſpectfully ſolicited their anſwers, and in which he comprehended every topic of enquiry, the reſolution of which could ſerve to illuſtrate any particular in his de-

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ſtined plan. He intended to ſit down to the compoſition of his work, as ſoon as he ſhould have received anſwers to theſe *queries*, for every pariſh in Scotland. But, the Scottiſh clergy, though neither an unenlightened nor an inactive race, were far from anſwering the *queries* of Sir John Sinclair, with that ready alacrity which he had expected from them. Some pariſhes were vacant: in ſome, the incumbents were ſick, or preſſed down by the infirmities of extreme old age: indolence, frivolity, careleſs convivial habits, a deep immerſion in family cares or in the buſineſs of rural life, a pious abſtraction of ſoul from all the concerns of the world, operated, as ſo many reaſons, to prevent not a few clergymen from paying any immediate attention to his requeſt. Some of the landholders, meanly unwilling, that the circumſtances of their tenantry and eſtates ſhould be publicly diſcloſed to the world, interpoſed to thwart and diſcountenance his undertaking. Under theſe diſadvantages, he ſoon found; that, if he ſhould delay to begin his intended work, till all the parochial anſwers to his *queries* were obtained; this work might, perhaps, never have a commencement. Beſides, among thoſe papers which had been already tranſmitted to him, there were ſeveral ſo excellent, that he could not think, that he might, in juſtice, withhold them from publication. He, therefore, poſtponed, for a time, the intention of compoſing his general work; and reſolved, firſt to print and publiſh the different parochial

rochial reports which ſhould be put into his hands, as nearly as poſſible, in the very form in which they were received. A firſt volume was, with this view, ſoon publiſhed: And its appearance acted as a ſtimulus, to excite others of the clergy to favour him with their communications. He renewed his ſolicitations with unconquerable perſeverance: All his reſpectable friends ſeconded his efforts. New progreſs was made in the accompliſhment of his plan. Several ſubſequent volumes were added to the firſt. In the ſpace of leſs than ten years, after writing to each individual of the greater number of nearly nine hundred clergymen, *more than thirty different letters of ſolicitation;* after making, with various ſucceſs, an infinite number of applications to perſons of all ranks; after performing, in particular, a multiplicity of ſmall favours to the clergy of the Scottiſh church; after enduring much from the ſelfiſh prejudices and author-pride of thoſe whoſe papers he received and publiſhed: Sir John Sinclair has, at laſt, finally accompliſhed, at an expence of ſeveral thouſand pounds, which the ſales have not yet refunded, the compilation and publication of a complete Statiſtical Account of all the pariſhes in Scotland, comprehended in twenty volumes octavo, and containing, for almoſt every different one of about nine hundred pariſhes, a different article by a different author. Among the complaints with which theſe clergymen teized him, in the progreſs of this work, it was one of the moſt troubleſome, that he mutilated and altered

tered their pieces, before printing them, and in ſo altering, ſpoiled them. But, in truth, many of the communications were made, not in a continuous compoſition, but in the form of anſwers to the queries,— a form in which it was impoſſible that he ſhould have thought of publiſhing them. Sir John Sinclair's primary object, was, to obtain an account of the preſent ſtate of each pariſh; without overlooking its antiquities; yet, without dwelling upon theſe in any very ample detail: while, on the contrary, many of the clergy had great difficulty in conceiving, that the common and familiar things which were conſtantly paſſing before them, could poſſeſs aught worthy of being ſolemnly recorded in print; and were, therefore, rather inclined to fill their papers with details of antiquities, as forming the principal part of that which they had to communicate. Beſides, there were, even among that reſpectable body of men, the clergy of the church of Scotland, ſome, who knew not to write accounts of their pariſhes with that correctneſs of compoſition, which was requiſite to fit them for the public eye. Theſe circumſtances naturally occaſioned to Sir John Sinclair, little leſs trouble in preparing the papers of the clergy for the preſs, than if he had actually compoſed an entirely new work of his own: while, at the ſame time, the alterations which he was obliged to make, afforded to every particular clergyman whoſe account of his pariſh, was diſapproved by the public, a pretence for affirming, that the account was

originally

originally good, but had been ſpoiled by Sir John Sinclair. The whole work is, now, before the public: and to the judgment of the public we ſhall leave it. We earneſtly wiſh; that he may not reſt ſatisfied with having formed this compilation; but may now find leiſure for the compoſition of that more general and original work, which it was his firſt intention to produce out of theſe materials. The manuſcripts of the preſent compilation, have, as we are informed, been carefully depoſited by him, in the library of the Faculty of Advocates, at Edinburgh.

His parliamentary exertions were not, in any degree, relaxed, during this progreſs of his ſtudies. He was diligent in his attendance on the meetings of the ſenate. He ſtudied, with great aſſiduity, the forms of its buſineſs, the great precedents recorded in its journals, and all thoſe principles of legiſlation, which were received, as its ordinary maxims of procedure. The partiality, perhaps, of a young member of parliament for a young miniſter; or, it may be, a perſuaſion, that nothing would ever be able to make Mr. Pitt ſwerve from the Whiggiſm of his early life; induced Sir John Sinclair, in the commencement of his parliamentary career, to range himſelf, for a time, among the partizans of this miniſter. Government, like any private man, muſt, naturally beſtow its graces, rather on its friends, than on its opponents: And, during this part of Sir John Sinclair's life, he failed not to experience ſome ſhare in the favours of the ad-

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miniſtration with which he acted. His family had pretenſions to the honours of a baronetage: and, theſe honours were readily conferred upon him. He enjoyed, for a time, I think, an inferior ſeat at one of the miniſterial boards.—But, perhaps, his ambition was not ſufficiently gratified by what the miniſter was willing to beſtow: perhaps, he was offended by Mr. Pitt's gradual dereliction of thoſe genuine Whig principles, of which the profeſſion had carried him into office. It may be, that, as the miniſter's character and talents were of a different caſt from thoſe of Sir John Sinclair; he treated thoſe things, upon which Sir John valued himſelf, with a contempt which is the moſt cruelly provoking to that perſonal vanity, from which, even virtue and good ſenſe, are not always exempted. By ſuch means, Sir John Sinclair was induced, firſt, to venture the occaſional proteſt of patriotiſm againſt the meaſures of Mr. Pitt; and, afterwards, in the courſe of that diſcuſſion which, on a celebrated occaſion, aroſe concerning the right to the regency of theſe kingdoms; openly to join the ranks, and adopt the hopes, of the Oppoſition. His votes, his ſpeeches were, during the parliamentary conteſt of that time, zealouſly friendly to the pretenſions of the Prince of Wales. Hoſtility to Mr. Pitt, and the hopes of advancement under a new adminiſtration, might, perhaps, combine with ſincere political opinion, in directing him in this plan of conduct.—When the queſtion concerning the ſlave-trade, was agitated, in the

year 1792, Sir John Sinclair avoided taking any decisive part in the discussion. He, perhaps believed that trade to be criminal, and worthy of severe reprobation; but dreaded, lest any *great* and *sudden* alteration in a matter, in which there was such a complication of interests concerned; might be attended with evils, much more than adequate to counterbalance whatever good could be confidently expected to result from it.—Perhaps a dread of democratic anarchy, perhaps some different motives, induced Sir John to come to a compromise with the minister, about the æra of the commencement of the present war. For a while, he supported the ministerial measures,—generally with a silent vote. But, finding that Mr. Pitt valued his simple assent more than his advice; alarmed by the embarrassments into which the nation was plunged by the war; and possibly thwarted *in* some of his *pretensions*; he, within no long time, relapsed into occasional opposition. His opposition was treated by the minister with the haughtiest contempt: And a hostility that may remain irreconcileable, has been, since, generated between them. Upon every important occasion, Sir John Sinclair seems still to consider himself, as bound in duty, not to be wanting, as a member of the legislature, to the interests of his country. He has shewn an anxiety for the termination of the present war, in an honourable peace. He strenuously resisted the measure of the redemption of the land-tax, as one which, by opening a way for the

imposition

impoſition of new burthens, would promote the continuance of the war, for which ſuch burthens are to afford the requiſite ſupplies. He has vigorouſly oppoſed the recent tax upon income, as one to the exaction of which, any meaſure of œconomy would aſſuredly be preferable. It is impoſſible, fairly to review the whole tenor of his conduct, as a member of the Britiſh parliament, without feeling one's ſelf compelled to acknowledge; that there appears in it, as ample an infuſion of enlarged intelligence and patriotic rectitude, alloyed with as ſmall a portion of folly, caprice, and ſelfiſhneſs, as is to be diſcovered in the conduct of almoſt any other eminent political character of the preſent age.

From his early youth, his attention had been, in a particular manner, devoted to the improvement of the rural œconomy of his country. A diverſity of circumſtances concurred to give him this turn of mind. The patriotiſm and genius of the late Lord Kaimes, made ſuch purſuits, for a time, faſhionable among young men of fortune in Scotland. The emigration of the Scottiſh peaſantry, in great numbers, to America, awakened the landholders to an extraordinary anxiety concerning the fitteſt means to maintain the value of their eſtates. The ingenious, indefatigable, and ill-requited Dr. James Anderſon had, by many valuable experiments and publications, laboured to excite, among his fellow-countrymen, a paſſion for agricultural improvements. Science and literature had

begun to make, throughout Britain, a variety of efforts to reduce this one province more, within the bourne of their empire. All the experience of Sir John Sinclair's public life, contributed to enhance his firſt ideas of the importance of public, and eſpecially of rural, œconomy. In the progreſs of his Statiſtical Enquiries, he gained new knowledge, which eſſentially contributed to ſtrengthen the previous bias of his mind. The examples of a Board of Trade, and of a Scottiſh Board for Improvements, Manufactures, and Fiſheries, ſuggeſted the idea of the inſtitution of a Board of Agriculture. All the fondeſt wiſhes of Sir John Sinclair, for ſome time, earneſtly pointed to the accompliſhment of this grand object. It is underſtood, that the inſtitution of a Board of Agriculture, of which Sir John Sinclair ſhould be preſident, was made a primary condition in that compromiſe with the miniſter, by which Sir John is ſuppoſed to have agreed to give his parliamentary ſupport to the firſt meaſures of the preſent war. Upon its inſtitution, Sir John Sinclair was choſen to be its preſident: Mr. Arthur Young was nominated to the office of its ſecretary. The preſident had reſolved, that this board ſhould not be ſubject to that ridicule of inactivity, which the late Mr. Burke threw out, upon a celebrated occaſion, againſt the Board of Trade. He inſtantly produced plans, which merited the approbation of the members of the Board, for engaging it in the moſt vigorous exertions to improve the agricultural ſtate of the

Britiſh empire. It was upon his ſuggeſtion, that the board opened its office, in order to communicate every information which farmers ſhould ſolicit, by correſpondence, to enlighten their practical operations; and, on the other hand, to receive from practical farmers, for the improvement of agricultural ſcience, every communication of new and peculiar facts or principles, which any one might ſuppoſe to be of importance, and to have fallen, perhaps excluſively, under his own knowledge. He was the author of the deſign of procuring agricultural ſurveys of all the different counties in Britain. From theſe ſurveys, when they ſhould have been all completed, it was his intention to procure the formation of one grand and general ſurvey of the agriculture and rural œconomy of the Britiſh empire. Out of this, again, he hoped to be able to form a ſhort, but elaborate abſtract, which ſhould ſerve as a manual of agricultural art and ſcience, to be valued by every Britiſh farmer, almoſt as his almanac and his bible. The improvement and uſeful diverſification of our principal tame animals; the introduction of new vegetables, and the perfection of the ſeeds and culture of ſuch as Britain before poſſeſſed; the abbreviation and ameliora-
tion of all the modes of rural labour; the reduction of all waſte lands under tillage, and the making of every field ſuſceptible of perpetual fertility and cultivation; the inſtructing of the farmers of one diſtrict, by expoſing to their knowledge the enlightened example of thoſe of another; the improve-

ment of the utenſils, the domeſtic accommodation, the morals, the intelligence of the people by whom the labours of huſbandry are to be carried on:— All theſe entered, as ſo many objects, into the views of the Preſident, for the proſecution of the Board of Agriculture. As he was the author of its plans of exertion; ſo the chief burthen of its buſineſs fell upon him alone. He ſupported and proſecuted it, with great ardour and perſeverance. A bill for facilitating the legal ſubdiviſion and incloſure of common fields, was one of the fruits of his application; which, though unſucceſsful, and though, perhaps not, in all its parts, completely worthy of ſucceſs; ſerved powerfully to evince the activity of his patriotiſm, and the enlargement of his agricultural intelligence. Calculations made by him, of which the reſults might well ſeem to careleſs obſervation, incredibly magnificent; have demonſtrated, how immenſely the national wealth of Great Britain is ſuſceptible of being augmented by agricultural improvements alone! In the execution of all his plans, he had ſoon made very great progreſs. A number of communications upon various agricultural ſubjects; a firſt edition of Reports of the State of Huſbandry, in all, or almoſt all the counties of Great Britain; a ſecond and enlarged edition of not a few of theſe Reports; had been communicated by him, to the world, through the preſs. An annual grant of a few thouſand pounds from parliament; a ſubſcription by the members of the board; and what copy-

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money was to be obtained by the ſale of the books; have been the reſources for the ſupply of the neceſſary expenditure of the Board of Agriculture. Notwithſtanding the difficulties and diſappointments which naturally aroſe in the midſt of this, as of all other great and complex undertakings; it could no longer appear doubtful to perſons of enlarged and ſagacious intelligence, but all thoſe great objects might be finally accompliſhed by this board, which its Preſident had held out to view, when he propoſed its inſtitution. But, perhaps, the miniſter did not approve of ſo much activity in a preſident of the Board of Agriculture. In that diſagreement, in regard, poſſibly, to both public principles and private intereſts, which has again taken place between Sir John Sinclair and the members of the Adminiſtration; the founder of the Board of Agriculture; he who was almoſt its ſole ſteadily efficient member; a man who had paid greater attention to rural œconomy than any other eminent individual in Europe; one who had dedicated his time, his fortune, his influence, his talents to this claſs of purſuits, with unexampled diſintereſtedneſs, perſeverance, and ſucceſs; has been removed from that preſidency in which it was his delight to ſerve, in order to make room—for whom?—for Lord Somerville!

About the æra of the commencement of the war, Sir John Sinclair, though not, by education, a military man, was employed, on account of his influence in the North, to levy a fencible regiment.

Under commiſſions to command as Colonel, the dates of which are of March 7th, and December 19th, 1794; he raiſed the two battalions of the Rothſay and Caithneſs Fencibles. With an erring notion of the true old Highland garb, but certainly with a very elegant alteration of its *costume*, he adopted the *trews* inſtead of the *kilt* or *philibeg*, in fixing the particular dreſs of his battalions. Turning, now, his attention to military affairs, with the ſame ardour with which he had applied it to the ſubjects of agriculture and public œconomy; he collected much valuable information, concerning the beſt ſtations for encampments, deſtined to the protection of the country, equally againſt anarchy and invaſion; concerning the beſt means for preſerving the health of the ſoldiery, thus encamped; and in regard to other matters of high military importance. His civil engagements, have, indeed, hindered him from remaining in conſtant ſervice, at the head of his battalions. But, this praiſe, at leaſt, cannot be denied him; that, among all thoſe gentlemen, who, without previous military experience, have been, within theſe few years, invited to give their aſſiſtance in the levying of ſoldiers; no one has formed a finer body of troops, nor has been more vigilantly or ſucceſsfully attentive to the equipment, health, and diſcipline of his men. His connexions with the farmers and the clergy of Scotland, proved eminently uſeful to him, while he was muſtering his ſoldiers. The farmers of Eaſt Lothian, offered a bounty to recruits enliſting in

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the regiment commanded by Sir John Sinclair. The clergy did him many little ſervices, by which his ſucceſs in recruiting, was not a little promoted. A promiſe of providing employment for his ſoldiers, when they ſhould be, at the end of the war, diſbanded,—in manufactures, which it was his intention to eſtabliſh at his burgh of Thurſo—preſented, at the ſame time, an intereſting invitation to thoſe young men, who were compelled to enter into the army, becauſe they were diſcharged from the ſervice of manufactures, in which they had been engaged before the war.

Beſide all this, Sir John Sinclair has vigilantly ſeized many other occaſions of promoting the intereſts of his country, of ſcience, and of literature.—When a number of the moſt eminent perſons in this country, aſſociated themſelves for the purpoſe of advancing, by their perſonal exertions, and by pecuniary contributions, the geographical inveſtigation of the unknown regions of the African continent; Sir John Sinclair was naturally invited into the Aſſociation; and was among the foremoſt, to enter eagerly into its views.—He was the founder of a Society for the improvement of Britiſh wool; whoſe endeavours, directed chiefly by his cares and ſagacity, have already been eminently beneficial to the ſhepherd-huſbandry, and to the woollen manufactures of Great Britain.—A very great number of the noblemen and gentlemen of the northern counties of Scotland, have united in what is called "the Highland Society," for the

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purpoſe of promoting the general improvement of the Scottiſh Highlands. Of this ſociety, alſo, Sir John Sinclair has long been a member: he has had, occaſionally, the honour of preſiding in its meetings: than he, there has been no one more aſſiduous to promote the ends of its inſtitution. Amidſt the diverſity of his other purſuits, he has even found time to take an active part in enquiries, in which it has been lately engaged, for the purpoſe of aſcertaining the authenticity of the poems aſcribed to Oſſian the ſon of Fingal.—Every man of letters, and every plauſible literary undertaking, has found, in Sir John Sinclair, a zealous friend. While Dr. James Anderſon was engaged at Edinburgh, in the periodical publication of that excellent Miſcellany which he named the BEE; Sir John ardently promoted its ſucceſs, by many a little office of friendſhip.—It is well known, what an honourable and munificent reward he obtained from the legiſlature of the country, to Mr. Elkington; what a jealouſy was excited by it; and how completely Sir John has been vindicated, in the eſtimation of all good men, from the charge of ungenerous or partial conduct, in that very delicate affair.—A very ingenious peaſant of the name of Bonnar, having made many extraordinary improvements in the art of managing bees, was encouraged, chiefly by Sir John Sinclair's patronage, to communicate his diſcoveries in an entertaining volume, to the world.—A Mr. Johnſtone, a very able and intelligent young man, was, under the direction of the ſame patron,

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ſent at the expence of the Highland Society, to learn the practice of Elkington's mode of draining, under its inventor; and was, then, enabled, ſtill by Sir John Sinclair's care, to explain the whole proceſs, in a book which has been ſince publiſhed by ſubſcription.—So remarkably has Sir John Sinclair diſtinguiſhed himſelf, eſpecially in Scotland, as the patron of every uſeful undertaking; that ſcarcely any thing of this nature, whether important or minute, whether in literature, in the ſciences, or in the arts, is there attempted, without being firſt ſubmitted to his conſideration, and, in ſome ſort, caſt upon his patronage.

In his private character and perſonal manners, Sir John Sinclair is more than irreproachable, he is eminently virtuous and amiable. He is an attentive and affectionate huſband and father; a gentle and benevolent maſter to his ſervants; punctual in his dealings with tradeſmen; anxious to perform the duties of a father, and, as it were, an informing angel, to his tenants; eaſily acceſſible to all; winning in his addreſs and manners, without any uſe of that ſmooth-tongued flattery which inſinuates what it does not mean, and ſelfiſhly amuſes, only to deceive. His form is tall and elegantly proportioned; his countenance, intereſting and expreſſive; his carriage, graceful, yet, perhaps, not without ſome degree of ſtiffneſs; his converſation rather pregnant with uſeful truth, than arrayed in the faſcinations of ſprightlineſs, wit, and fancy. He has been twice married, to two of the moſt beauti-

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ful women in the iſland. His firſt lady, a Miſs Maitland, prematurely died in the bloom of youth; his children by her, were two daughters. His preſent lady, is the daughter of the late Lord Macdonald; and by her, he has a ſon, George, and other children. Not a great many years ſince, he made a rapid tour through the northern kingdoms of the European continent; which, when the ſhortneſs of the time in which it had been performed, came to be known in Britain, failed not to be talked of with ſome ſhare of ridicule.

After all this, it may, perhaps, be aſked—Is Sir John Sinclair, a man of genius?—Is he, indeed, qualified to act a great part on the theatre of public affairs? We ſhall, perhaps, do well to concede, that he wants that ſeraph-fire of ſoul, that expanſive comprehenſion and that elaſtic energy of intellect, that eagle-eyed intuition illuminating with a glance the deepeſt obſcurities of nature or of human things, thoſe trembling ſenſibilities of ſympathy and of paſſion, thoſe unconfined creative powers of fancy, which have been granted to but very few among all the millions of mankind. He ſeems to have deſcended, to dwell in the regions of minute detail; without having, firſt, duly cultivated his powers of abſtraction and generalization; without having ſtored his mind with a ſufficient abundance of original and general principles. In the progreſs of his ſtudies and political labours, he appears to have, with an error of judgment which is to be greatly lamented, choſen,

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ſtill more and more, to ſlight the ſplendid for the ſake of the uſeful, and to refuſe thoſe ſacrifices to the Graces, the withholding of which is often, but too dearly puniſhed; a choice which has, of neceſſity, deprived him of the maſterly uſe of engines which he might otherwiſe have employed, the moſt ſucceſsfully, in accompliſhing the nobleſt purpoſes of his ſoul. He has not cultivated parliamentary eloquence, with the happieſt care; but ſeems to have, from the firſt, ſuppoſed elocution, manner, the flowers of fancy, the ardour of ſentiment, the energies and the graces of language, to be, in compariſon with ſound information and honeſt patriotic meaning, of an importance greatly inferior to that which they, in truth, poſſeſs. It may be, that he has, at times, ſuffered the petty vanities of the author to ſhed an air of ridicule over his ſtudies, and to impede the proſecution of his grander views. Amidſt the complexity and operoſeneſs of the means, he has, at times, perhaps, loſt ſight of the end. He has, ſometimes, as it ſhould ſeem, neglected to graſp the eſſence of influence and of power, while he was more ſolicitous concerning what men might think of his conduct and perſonal importance, than concerning the actual effects which theſe were to produce in the affairs upon which they were exerciſed. His are not the powers, which delight to ride in the whirlwind, and to controul the ſtorm; which, though they may languiſh on inferior occaſions, never fail to erect themſelves to thoſe which are

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arduous and great; which find their proper region of activity, in the keeneſt and moſt doubtful contional danger, when kings and nobles are confounded for lack of counſel,—amidſt thoſe alarms, before which common ſouls fall proſtrate, and ſhrink into themſelves.

But of genius, the very firſt in the ſecond claſs, he has exhibited many indubitable proofs. To conceive a plauſible project, is, indeed, no very deciſive evidence of high talents. But, to conceive a magnificent project; and then, in ſpite of every obſtacle, to carry this project fairly and effectually into execution;—theſe combined acts are, above almoſt all others, the moſt unequivocal teſtimonies of great abilities, in the perſon who is capable of them. Such teſtimonies of his abilities, has Sir John Sinclair preſented, in the compilation of the Statiſtical Account of Scotland, in the eſtabliſhment of the Britiſh wool-ſociety, in procuring the inſtitution of a national board of Agriculture, in almoſt creating a ſcience of agriculture, which, before his time, had ſcarcely an exiſtence. If, in various matters of inferior conſequence; as for inſtance, in thoſe expedients which he publicly propoſed, for the ſupport of the credit of the Bank of England; he have written crudely, and without a due knowledge of his ſubject: let it be remem-

* Let us not, however, be inferred, as denying to Mr. Arthur Young, and particularly to Mr. Marſhall, our beſt agricultural claſſic, that high praiſe which their writings deſerve.

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bered, that candour demands of us, to judge of the ſtrength of any man's abilities, not by the worſt, but by the beſt, of his performances; and that even genius can diſtinguiſh itſelf, only there, where it has employed the requiſite toils of reſearch and compoſition. Compare Sir John Sinclair with the mob of men of rank and fortune, throughout the iſland; how does he ſhine—

Ut luna inter minores ignes!

Compare only his conduct, as Preſident of the Board of Agriculture, with that plan of conduct, which is boaſtingly ſaid to have been adopted by his very reſpectable ſucceſſor in the ſame office! Sir John Sinclair, with Bacon, with Newton, with almoſt all great men of profound ſcience, or of eminent experience in the arts of life, was of opinion; that the arts of dyeing, for inſtance, of metallurgy, of navigation, of gardening, of the uſeful management of all the mechanical powers, had been improved into ſcientific excellence, and had been taught with facility and ſucceſs, only ſince ſcience and literature were carefully applied, for their perfection and illuſtration. He looked around him; and ſaw new palaces of ſcience, continually riſing, by the efforts of philoſophy and literature, on ſcenes where ſtood, before, the miſerable hovels of lubbard labour, untutored toil, and unſkilful art. He ſaw, that, by the change, the hundred arms of labour, had been endowed with all the energies of ten thouſand. He was impatient to do for his favourite agriculture, that which had been already done

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for other arts,—to elevate it into a ſcience, and to make its true principles univerſally known. He knew, by the example of the Board of Trade; that, unleſs for the purpoſe of fulfilling, in one portion, the views of the illuſtrious Bacon, of creating a ſcience, and diſſeminating information; the inſtitution of a Board of Agriculture, were vain. In the adminiſtration of the buſineſs of that Board, of which he was the founder; he directed all his plans to this great end. So far as time could permit, he was triumphing over every difficulty, in the accompliſhment of of it.—He is removed from the ſituation to which he did honour: and his ſucceſſor prepares to adopt, for the conduct of the exertions of the Board, a plan almoſt directly oppoſite to that which Sir John Sinclair purſued. We are told, that, agriculture is not ſuſceptible of being reduced to ſcience; that farmers are incapable of learning any part of their buſineſs from books; that, it is not in the way of collecting and diſſeminating agricultural knowledge, through the channel of the Preſs, that this Board is, henceforth, to make itſelf principally uſeful!—Pray, gentle reader, which of theſe two plans for the conduct of the Board of Agriculture, is that of a man of genius and enlargement of mind? Which, pray, is the plan even of a man of common ſenſe?—Perſons turning their attention upon the plans of Sir John Sinclair, in their unfiniſhed ſtate, have preſumed to contemn them as maſſes of confuſion and ſtupidity. But, it is thus, that folly ever derides the magnificent works of genius and

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wiſdom, while it beholds them, as yet, only in their progreſs towards final accompliſhment. Hearing the ſarcaſms of ſuch perſons, we never fail to recollect the beautiful apologue of Dr. Percival, in which he introduces a boy, beholding Sir Iſaac Newton buſied in his experiments upon colours and the laws of viſion;—and contemptuouſly laughing to ſee ſuch a grave gentleman no better employed than in blowing bubbles of ſoap and water, and viewing their appearance under the rays of the ſun.

We doubt not, but the labours of Sir John Sinclair, will be hereafter regarded, as forming a great æra in the progreſs of the ſcience of Public Œconomy. We preſume to expreſs our earneſt wiſhes and hopes, that no political ſlight from miniſters, that no tranſient fickleneſs in the favour of the people, may diſcourage him from purſuing ſteadily that great career of public exertion in which he has hitherto perſevered. We truſt, that he will not fail to exemplify that truth which is ſo beautifully expreſſed by the Roman Poet.

Virtus, repulſæ neſcia ſordidæ,
Intaminatis fulget honoribus,
Nec ſumit aut ponit ſecures,
Arbitreo popularis auræ! HOR.

THE EARL OF LIVERPOOL.

THE riſe of this nobleman muſt be allowed, even by his friends, to have been great; and if we are to believe his enemies, it is unexampled in our

annals, ſince the time of the Spenſers. This, however, is not ſtrictly true, for it might be eaſy to point out many others who have been fully as fortunate in the courſe of the preſent reign, and attained equal honours with, perhaps, inferior pretenſions.

On his being ennobled, it was obſerved, with more rancour than truth, that his family diſgraced the peerage; whereas the fact is, that on the ſcore of birth his pretenſions are ſuperior to many of thoſe with whom he aſſociates, either in the ſenate, or at the council-board, being the next heir to a baronetage, which is now merged in a higher title. His anceſtors have been ſettled more than a century at Walcot, near Charlbury, in Oxfordſhire. His grandfather, Sir Robert Jenkinſon, married a wealthy heireſs at Bromley, in Kent; and his father, who was a colonel in the army, reſided at South Lawn Lodge, in Whichwood Foreſt.

Charles Jenkinſon received the firſt rudiments of his education at the grammar-ſchool of Burford, two miles diſtant from his father's houſe; and many perſons are ſtill living, in that neighbourhood, who addreſs him as their old ſchool-fellow. He was afterwards placed on the foundation in the Charter-houſe, and ſeems to have been ſo well ſatisfied with the inſtitution, that he educated his eldeſt ſon, the preſent Lord Hawkeſbury, there. From that eminent ſeminary he was removed to Oxford, where he firſt imbibed, perhaps, his political ſentiments, and was entered a member of Univer-

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ſity college. There he took two degrees, that of B.A. and A.M. and ſeems to have made himſelf firſt known to the public by ſome verſes on the much-lamented death of the Prince of Wales, father of his preſent Majeſty.

In 1753, he removed from Oxford, without obtaining, and, perhaps, without ſoliciting, a fellowſhip. Soon after this he ſtarted in his literary career, and is ſaid to have ſupplied materials for that uſeful publication, the Monthly Review: he next commenced political writer; and, in 1756, publiſhed A Diſſertation on the Eſtabliſhment of a national and conſtitutional Force in England, independent of a ſtanding Army. This abounds with many manly and patriotic ſentiments, and has been lately quoted againſt himſelf in the Houſe of Peers: on that occaſion his lordſhip did not deny that he was the author, but contented himſelf with apologiſing for his errors, on account of his extreme youth.

Soon after this he favoured the public with "A Diſcourſe on the Conduct of the Government "of Great Britain, with reſpect to neutral Nations, "during the preſent War."

To the laſt of theſe productions, his riſe in life has been falſely attributed; it was indeed allowed by every one to be an able performance; but, like many others of the ſame kind, it might have lain in the warehouſe of his bookſeller, and he himſelf remained for ever in obſcurity, had it not been for the intervention of a gentleman of the

ſame county, with whom he luckily became acquainted.

Sir Edward Turner of Ambroſeden in Oxfordſhire, being of an ancient family, and poſſeſſing a large fortune, was deſirous to repreſent his native county in parliament. Having attained conſiderable influence by means of a large eſtate, and a hoſpitable and noble manſion, ſince pulled down by his ſucceſſor, he accordingly ſtood candidate as knight of the ſhire. He was, however, ſtrenuouſly but unſucceſsfully oppoſed; for in addition to his own, he poſſeſſed the court intereſt. The ſtruggle, notwithſtanding this, was long and violent, and it ſtill forms a memorable epoch in the hiſtory of conteſted elections; but for nothing is it more remarkable, than by being the fortunate occurrence in Mr. Jenkinſon's life, which produced all his preſent greatneſs. The contending parties having, as uſual, called in the aid of ballads, lampoons, verſes, and ſatires, this gentleman diſtinguiſhed himſelf by a ſong in favour of Sir Edward and his friends, which ſo captivated either the taſte or the gratitude of the baronet, that he introduced him to the Earl of Bute, then flouriſhing in all the plenitude of power.

It is known but to few, perhaps, that his lordſhip, who placed Mr. J. at firſt in an inferior office, was not at all captivated with him; for it was entirely owing to the repeated ſolicitations of the member for Oxfordſhire, that he extended his further protection. After a longer trial, he became

came the Premier's private ſecretary, and in ſome reſpect a member of his family, participating in his friendſhip and favour, and living with him in an unreſtrained and confidential intercourſe.

Such a conne[illegible]n as this could not fail to prove advantageous; a[illegible], accordingly, in March, 1761, we find him app[illegible]nted one of the Under-ſecretaries of State, a[illegible]ation which preſuppoſes an intimate acquaintanc[illegible] with the ſituation of foreign affairs, and a pretty ac[illegible]urate knowledge in reſpect to the *arcana imperii* in general.

He now became a declared adherent of what was then called "the Leiceſter-houſe party," by whoſe influence he was returned to parliament at the general election (in 1761) for the borough of Cockermouth, on the *recommendation* of Sir James Lowther, the preſent Earl of Lonſdale, his patron's ſon-in-law.

He, however, did not remain long in this ſtation, for after the lapſe of about fourteen months, he received the lucrative appointment of Treaſurer of the Ordnance; this he relinquiſhed in 1763, for the more confidential office of joint Secretary of the Treaſury; a ſituation for which he was admirably qualified, by his knowledge of the ſtate of parties, and the management of a Houſe of Commons, of which he himſelf had been ſome time a member.

To the Rockingham adminiſtration, which ſucceeded in 1765, he was both perſonally and politically odious, and he accordingly loſt all his ap-

pointments; but in the courſe of the ſame year, he had one conferred on him by the king's mother, the late Princeſs Dowager of Wales, which no miniſter could bereave him of; this was the auditorſhip of her Royal Highneſs's accounts.

That circumſtance, added to his cloſe intimacy with the diſcarded miniſter, awakened the jealouſy of the patriots; and, if we are to credit their ſuſpicions, he became, in the technical language of that day, the "go-between" to the favourite, the princeſs-mother, and the throne.

When Lord Bute retired into the country in diſguſt, promiſing to relinquiſh public affairs, a great perſonage is ſaid to have conſtrued this into an *abandonment*, and to have looked out for advice elſewhere; from that moment Mr. Jenkinſon was ranked as one of the leaders of the party called "the king's friends," and his Majeſty has ever ſince diſtinguiſhed him by a marked partiality.

Honours and employments now fell thick upon him. In 1766, he was nominated a Lord of the Admiralty, and in 1767, a Lord of the Treaſury, in which place, he continued during the Grenville and Grafton adminiſtrations. But under that of Lord North, we find him aſpiring to ſome of the higher offices of government; for in 1772, he was appointed one of the Vice-treaſurers of Ireland, on which occaſion he was introduced into the privy-council.

In

In 1775, he purchaſed of Mr. Fox, the patent place of clerk of the Pells in Ireland, which had conſtituted part of that gentleman's patrimony, and next year was appointed maſter of the Mint in the Room of Lord Cadogan. In 1778, he was elevated to the more important poſt of Secretary at War, in which ſituation we find him in 1780, and 1781, defending the eſtimates of the army, in the Houſe of Commons.

The conteſt between the friends of Mr. Jenkinſon and oppoſition, now became critical; the majorities which had implicitly voted with the miniſtry, were reduced in every diviſion, and at laſt abandoned a premier, who tottered on the Treaſury Bench.

Mr. Jenkinſon thought he had now ample leiſure to compile his collection of Treaties, but he was ſoon by another change in politics, called back from his literary labours, into active life, and took a decided part in behalf of Mr. Pitt. In conſequence of his exertions on this occaſion, in 1786, he was nominated to the lucrative poſt of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaſter, created baron of Hawkſbury, in the county of Glouceſter, and appointed Preſident of the Committee of Council for the affairs of Trade and Plantations. For the laſt ſituation, his lordſhip's regular and progreſſive riſe, added to the various offices in which he had acted, admirably qualified him.

Further emoluments were, however, reſerved for him, for on the deceaſe of his relation, the late

Sir Banks Jenkinſon *, who held the lucrative patent place of collector of the cuſtoms *Inwards*, he procured the grant. Nothing can more clearly demonſtrate his great influence than that occurrence; for this was one of the ſinecures which the premier had all along declared his intention to aboliſh.

To theſe favours, in 1796, was added that of Earl of Liverpool, on which creation he was authorized by his Majeſty to quarter the arms of that commercial city with thoſe of his own family. Theſe are great honours, but the motto which he has adopted for his eſcutcheon, proves that he conſiders himſelf as not undeſerving of them †.

While in the Houſe of Commons, Mr. Jenkinſon ſpoke frequently, but ſince his recent elevation, he riſes but ſeldom ‡; whatever he ſays, however, is liſtened to with the utmoſt attention, and the throbbings of expectation are never more feelingly experienced by the ſervants of the crown, than when he hints his wiſhes either at the council-board, or in parliament.

His lordſhip formerly experienced much odium, which, indeed, is always attached to the charge

* Sir B. J. died in 1780.

† PALMA NON SINE PULVERE.

‡ In one inſtance, when the writer of this note happened to be in the Houſe of Peers, and at a period when his lordſhip did not poſſeſs any oſtenſible poſt, in ſpeaking of the preſent miniſtry he made uſe of the word *we*, which gave the Earl of Carliſle (then in oppoſition) an opportunity to infer that Lord Hawkeſbury had, at length, owned his connexion and influence with the miniſter.

of

of favouritiſm: for when the Earl of Bute made his *apotheſis*, his political mantle was ſuppoſed to drop on the ſhoulders of Mr. Jenkinſon. He is now, however, a peer and a privy counſellor, and in one of theſe ſituations has become the temporary, and, in the other, the conſtitutional adviſer of the crown: he is, therefore, empowered both by office and by law to deliver his opinion to his ſovereign.

It would be unjuſt to omit that the Earl of Liverpool has always paid great attention to the trade of this country. It was he who drew up the treaty of commercial intercourſe with America; and he is alſo ſaid to have not only pointed out, but to have *created* the whale fiſhery in the South Seas.

Reſpecting the part he took during the American war, the public voice has long ſince decided; no one ever ſpoke more deciſively, or, perhaps, more intemperately on that ſubject than his preſent aſſociate the Chancellor of the Exchequer: and of the ſhare they both have in the management of this country, the government of Ireland, and the preſent conteſt with France, poſterity will be able to judge more coolly, and more fairly, than their own contemporaries.

MR. ABRAHAM NEWLAND.

THE name and ſignature of this gentleman are both pretty familiar throughout every part of Great Britain; indeed the latter ſeems to give the ſame currency to a *bank-note* that the celebrated and notorious John Doe and Richard Roe, confer on a *capias*. Honeſt Abraham has, however, this in his favour, that he is no fictitious perſon, made up of ſhreds of parchment, but a man—a real living man, conſtituted of fleſh, blood, bones, ſinews, marrow, and muſcles; and while the place of abode of the former *gentlemen* is ſo little known, even in Chancery-lane, Lincoln's-inn, Gray's-inn, Serjeant's-inn, or the Temple, that the Sheriffs of Middleſex, if ordered to take one of the rogues into cuſtody, muſt be under the neceſſity of returning *non eſt inventus* on the back of the writ,—there is not a boy about the Royal Exchange who cannot point out the *great houſe*, where the worthy Abraham is to be ſeen ſtrutting about, with a pen behind his ear, and a muſter-roll of bank notes in his hand, for ſeveral hours every day!

The trade of Europe, during the middle ages, was confined almoſt excluſively to the provinces that ſkirt the Mediterranean and the Baltic. The oppreſſions every where experienced by the Jews from the *brotherly affection* of the Chriſtians, taught them, from cruel neceſſity, the art of transferring their riches from one nation to another; and the

myſteries

myſteries of banking, and bills of exchange, are ſuppoſed to have originated in Italy.

A colony of Lombards, by means of the arms of their duchy *, and the name of their country, have given ſign poſts to our pawnbrokers, and an apellation to the reſidence of our principal bankers †.

It was not, however, until nearly two centuries after this epoch, notwithſtanding the growing increaſe of our commerce, that a national bank was eſtabliſhed; and notwithſtanding David Hume, towards the latter period of his life, affected to conſider public credit as a *hardier plant* than he had at firſt imagined, yet it is a long time before mankind becomes ſo metaphyſical as to ſuppoſe that a horſe, a ſhip, an eſtate, or even a province, may be reſented by a ſquare ſlip of flimſy paper.

Indeed, this mode of reaſoning is ſupported by facts, for it was found impoſſible to create a great national bank, either under the houſes of Tudor or Stuart. Such a tyranny as that exerciſed by Henry VIII. would have driven the proprietors into beggary in the courſe of a fortnight. Charles II. who cheated the *goldſmiths*, or bankers of his day, by plundering the exchequer of the money lodged there, and whom the *Gothamites* of later times have placed in the centre of the exchange, dreſſed in a Roman habit, as if he had been the protector of trade! might have proved nearly as fatal to a banking company, by his own diſtreſſes, joined to the per-

* The three balls of Lombardy.

† Lombard-ſtreet.

petual

petual cravings of his courtiers and miſtreſſes, as the indiſcriminate ferocity of Henry. Nel Gwyn alone, would have put a *German ſubſidy* in requiſition!

In fine, we all know, that an eſtabliſhment of this kind failed in monarchical France, and that it has been ſeveral times *ineffectually* attempted under the republic. It was not until five years ſubſequent to our own revolution, that the bank of England was eſtabliſhed (in 1693), under the auſpices of a prince emphatically termed "the DELIVERER;" thus proving, to demonſtration, that liberty and public credit are inſeparable from each other. At Berlin, Vienna, and Madrid, we hear of *court bankers*, but a national bank is ſtill unknown.

This eſtabliſhment has combated and overcome a multitude of difficulties; for its notes at one time, in conſequence of the arts practiſed by the adherents to the houſe of Stuart, experienced a diſcount; and it is but a ſhort period ſince, that the precious metals contained within its vaults have been kept from circulation, and all money-payments ſuſpended by act of parliament. Even this, however, it has ſurvived; for the known wealth of the eſtabliſhment, the punctuality of its offices, and the admirable economy of their arrangements, have attracted and moſt deſervedly retained the confidence of the nation.

Of theſe officers, the moſt eminent, moſt noted, and perhaps alſo the moſt reſpectable, is the ſubject of

of theſe memoirs. Mr. Newland, born in 1729, or 1730, at the houſe of his father, a baker, in King-ſtreet, Southwark, was appointed a clerk in the bank of England, a little more than half a century ago, being nominated on the 27th February, 1748. Diſtinguiſhing himſelf by that regularity and order ſo neceſſary in money concerns, he roſe through the various gradations of ſervice, until January 19, 1775, when he attained the reſpectable and confidential office of chief caſhier to the firſt commercial company in Europe.

He is now in the 68th or 69th year of his age, and has ſomething commanding and reſpectable in his perſon. His deportment is alſo genteel, his manners are affable, and his activity and attention ſtill exhibit a pattern for the imitation of the junior clerks. His manner of tranſacting buſineſs is eminently methodical; and he is known to have undeſignedly given offence to a few of the ſubſcribers to the voluntary contributions, by a rigid and minute attention to the proviſos of the act of parliament, and the inſtructions of the directors. On this occaſion, the zeal of ſome of the newſpapers got the better of their diſcretion, and they made many equally ridiculous and impotent reflections on the character of a gentleman, who generouſly contributed 200*l.* towards the very meaſure of which they ſuppoſed him to be an enemy.

The wealth of Mr. N. has been the ſubject of much conjecture. He is certainly rich, but no ſuſpicion can attach to this circumſtance, when his

opportunities,

opportunities, his emoluments, and his economy are conſidered. He is, however, no churl; for a ſum of money being wanted for rebuilding the church of St. *Peter-le-Poor* in Broad-ſtreet, it was inſtantly advanced by him to the pariſh, at the uſual intereſt, although he could have eaſily turned it to better account.

At a certain period of life, men both attain and retain habits either of regularity or diſſipation. At fifteen minutes paſt nine o'clock in the morning, he is ſeen conſtantly at his deſk, and is never abſent from his duty until three in the afternoon. He reſides in a *ſuite* of apartments in the bank, annexed to his office, as chief caſhier; and being a bachelor, his eſtabliſhment is not large. In a period of thirty or forty years, he has not been once abſent, except during a few weeks illneſs; and therefore trips to Margate, Brighton, and the other faſhionable watering places, have neither impeded his duties, nor added to his expence.

The only relaxation he has allowed himſelf for many ſummers paſt, is a daily ride in the Iſlington ſtage-coach, to a cottage at Highbury, where he drinks tea; and after contemplating *the beauties of the country*, returns regularly in the evening to the bank.

As a private character, this gentleman ranks very high; and in his ſocial hours he is an excellent companion, enjoying the pleaſures of the table in moderation, and laughing heartily at a *good ſtory*, of which he is paſſionately fond.

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It is almoſt impoſſible to contemplate the immenſe ſums of *paper-money* which literally paſs through his hands, both as chief caſhier to the bank, and ſecretary and agent to the commiſſioners appointed by act of parliament for the reduction of the national debt, without thinking of the lines of Pope:

" Bleſs'd paper credit! laſt and beſt ſupply!
" That lends Corruption higher wings to fly!
" Gold imp'd by thee can compaſs hardeſt things,
" Can pocket ſtates, can fetch or carry kings;
" A ſingle leaf ſhall waft an army o'er,
" Or ſhip off ſenates to ſome diſtant ſhore:
" A leaf, like Sibyl's, ſcatter to and fro
" Our fates and fortunes, as the winds ſhall blow:
" Pregnant with thouſands, flits the ſcrap unſeen,
" And ſilent ſells a king or buys a queen."

A. D.

THE HONOURABLE (lately RIGHT HONOURABLE)

CHARLES JAMES FOX.

ALL the great men of the preſent day are either the offspring of, or immediately deſcended from, new families. The ancient nobility repoſe under the laurels of their anceſtors. Not deigning to apply to any of the learned profeſſions, and deeming commerce and agriculture unworthy of their purſuits (a few illuſtrious characters excepted) they delegate their domeſtic concerns to the care of their upper ſervants, and not unfrequently the

buſineſs

buſineſs of the nation is entruſted to their proxies. This, perhaps, will be the beſt apology for the multitude of plebeian ſcions, recently engrafted on the ſtock of ancient ariſtocracy; and, although it may puzzle Garter, Norroy, and Clarencieux, to find them either arms or anceſtors, certain it is, that the *life-blood* of nobility has been infuſed into the peerage through the conduit of democracy.

It may alſo be neceſſary to preface this article with another obſervation, of which ſome of the moſt conſpicuous characters of the preſent political drama, afford more than one pregnant inſtance: that the younger ſons of our nobility are more ſucceſsful in their political efforts, than the elder *. This may be eaſily accounted for: the heir to a great fortune, and an illuſtrious title, knows not how ſoon both may devolve upon him; and when that event takes place, to what further object can his expectations point? He finds that he has been born a legiſlator, and that a large fortune is entailed upon his perſon; here, then, are wealth and honours not only within his graſp, but actually in his poſſeſſion. It is otherwiſe with the junior branches, for they have in general but little in poſſeſſion, and

* The following remarks are by the late Lord Orford, better known by the name of Horace Walpole:

"William Pitt, Lord Chatham, was a ſecond ſon, and became prime miniſter of England. His rival and antagoniſt was Henry Fox, Lord Holland, a ſecond ſon likewiſe. Lord Holland's ſecond ſon, Charles Fox, and Lord Chatham's ſecond ſon, William Pitt, are now rivals and antagoniſts."

every

every thing to look for; they inherit all the exquiſite reliſh for pleaſure that their ſeniors enjoy to ſatiety, and are only deficient in the means of gratification. Like the dove of Noah, they ſcarcely find a reſting-place for the ſoles of their feet, on *their own* earth; and they are exactly in the ſituation of an invading general who has burnt his ſhips, for they muſt go on, or periſh!

Charles James Fox is the younger ſon of Henry, who was himſelf a younger ſon of Sir Stephen Fox, celebrated leſs for his own birth, than the circumſtance of being a father at the age of eighty, an event not incredible, however, and rendered, in the preſent inſtance, unſuſpicious, by the decorous conduct, and acknowledged virtue of the partner of his bed. Henry entered early into public life; and ſuch was his addreſs in parliament, during the reign of George II. that he ſoon attained not only ſome of the moſt arduous and honourable but alſo the moſt lucrative ſituations in the gift of the crown; for, in the year 1754, he was appointed ſecretary at war; then ſecretary of ſtate for the ſouthern department; and, after being *ouſted* by the great Mr. Pitt, leſs celebrated under the name of Earl of Chatham, we find him filling the immenſely beneficial office of pay-maſter general of the forces, accumulating great wealth, and thereby incurring the animadverſions of the firſt city of the empire. Such, indeed, was his conſequence, that at a time when patents of peerage were not very common, he was ennobled by his

preſent Majeſty, in 1763, by the title of Baron Holland of Foxley.

His ſon, Charles James, was born January 13th, 1749, and if on his father's ſide he claſſed among the *novi homines*, by his mother's, his deſcent muſt be allowed to be illuſtrious; for Lady Georgiana Carolina Lenox was the daughter of the late Duke of Richmond; and, as ſuch, in addition to that of the King of Sardinia, ſhe was allied to the two rival, but related families, which had ſo long conteſted for the throne of Great Britain—thoſe of Brunſwick and Stuart.

But it is not to ſuch claims as theſe that the future hiſtorian will have recourſe; he will dwell with ardour on the early promiſe of genius, the precocious talents of the boy, the matured wiſdom of the philoſopher and the ſtateſman; and while the abilities and virtues that adorn the character of his hero bring him forward on the canvas, theſe inefficient and involuntary pretenſions will be caſt into the ſhade, and ſcarcely be diſtinguiſhed in the back ground.

This ſecond ſon proved Lord Holland's favourite child, and at length became the darling of his old age. Perceiving in him the ſeeds of all the admirable qualities that conſtitute greatneſs, he was at infinite pains to give ſcope to his intellectual vigour, to expand the ſhoots, and diſcloſe the bloſſoms of ſo promiſing a plant. From his earlieſt infancy he intended him for parliamentary buſineſs, and by converſing always with him as if he had been

been a man, he actually made him one before the uſual time *.

This country beheld, in the perſons of two rival orators, two wonderful inſtances of ſtateſmen, retiring, at different times, from the field of contention, and devoting the remainder of their lives to the education of their two younger ſons, with whom they were accuſtomed to conſult about public affairs, and ſometimes to place on a table, in order to hear them declaim. Occupied during the early part of their days in hoſtilities againſt each other, the enmity of the families ſeems to have become hereditary, for it is kept up by their children, who ſtill maintain a rivalſhip, even after they have abjured the principles of their reſpective ſires.

In compliance with the future deſtination of his ſon, Lord Holland preferred a public to a private education, and accordingly ſent Charles to Weſtminſter ſchool. After diſtinguiſhing himſelf there, he removed to Eaton, where Dr. Bernard, the late provoſt, found him not only uncommonly eager after amuſements, but eminently ſucceſsful in claſſical attainments. His private tutor, while a member of this celebrated inſtitution, was Dr. Newcombe, afterwards Biſhop of Waterford, and now Archbiſhop of Armagh, who, while he was frequently vexed at the diſſipation of his pupil, had occaſion, at the ſame time, to be highly gratified

* Lord Holland is ſaid to have ſubmitted his diſpatches to the peruſal of his favourite boy; and, on one occaſion, is actually reported to have complied with the alterations he ſuggeſted.

with his progreſs. Here he formed his early friendſhips with the Earl Fitzwilliam, Lord Carliſle, his own relation the Duke of Leinſter, and ſome of the firſt men of the age. It was here alſo, that one of them * anticipated his future reputation, in the following lines:

" How will my Fox, alone, by ſtrength of parts,
" Shake the loud ſenate, animate the hearts
" Of fearful ſtateſmen! while around you ſtand
" Both Peers and Commons, liſt'ning your command;
" While TULLY's ſenſe its weight to you affords,
" His nervous ſweetneſs ſhall adorn your word.
" What praiſe to PITT, to TOWNSHEND, e'er was due,
" In future times, my Fox, ſhall wait on you."

His father being, in the uncourtly language of thoſe days, "a rank Tory," Charles was ſent to finiſh his education at Oxford, where he is reported, in imitation of Penelope, to have regained, by his daily toils, the labours loſt during his nocturnal aberrations.

At length he began to pant after a more unreſtrained intercourſe with ſociety, and conſequently to be diſguſted with the reſtraints, and tired with the uniformity, of a collegiate life. The moſt eaſy, as well as moſt likely way to rid himſelf of this, was to evince an ardent deſire to ſee the world; and as his ſtudies were now completed, his father, as uſual, indulged the wiſhes of his darling ſon. Thoſe who have been accuſtomed to

* Lord Carliſle.

ſee

ſee Mr. Fox of late years, without being acquainted with the minute particulars of his early life, will ſcarcely believe, that at this period he was one of the greateſt *beaus* in England; that he indulged in all the faſhionable elegance of attire, and vied, in point of *red-heels* and *Paris-cut-velvet*, with the moſt ſhewy men of the times. Theſe, and ſimilar qualifications, were diſplayed in moſt of the courts of Europe, in the courſe of the grand tour; and if he did not return like his maternal anceſtor *, with all the vices of the continent, he at leaſt brought a wardrobe replete with all its faſhions. Nor will a ſtrict regard to hiſtorical truth permit the omiſſion of more culpable tranſgreſſions, for he is ſaid, amidſt the ardour and impetuoſity of youth, to have expended, or rather laviſhed, vaſt ſums of money in play†, and to have contracted immenſe debts. Let it be recollected, however, that he was, at this very time, between two and three years ſhort of that period, when the law declared him to be no longer a minor.

His enemies have carefully reminded us, that the firſt political act of his life was a violation of the juriſprudence of his native country; for at the

* Charles II.

† Dr. Biſſet, in his Life of Burke, aſſerts, that his father, Lord Holland, who accompanied him to Spa, firſt excited an itch for play in his youthful mind, by allowing him five guineas a night to be ſpent in games of hazard. But as this reſts on the mere aſſertion of that gentleman, it will be difficult to give credit to the report.

general election, in 1768, he took his ſeat for Midhurſt, in Suſſex, a borough under the influence of his family, when he was only nineteen years of age, and conſequently ineligible. It is with pain too, and here reluctantly recorded, that the firſt effort of his eloquence was hoſtile to liberty *; but, beſides his extreme youth, the bent of his education, the prejudices of his family, and the wiſhes of a fond father, ought all to be taken into conſideration, and if a complete vindication does not enſue, a liberal and ingenuous mind will not be at a loſs for an apology.

During all the proceedings of the Houſe of Commons, relative to the Middleſex election, Mr. F. ſtood forward as the champion of the miniſtry, and exhibited no common addreſs and activity on the occaſion. From the firſt moment of his entering the ſenate, he, indeed, diſplayed all the qualities of an accompliſhed orator; and Lord North, then chancellor of the exchequer, deemed his merits ſo conſiderable, that, in the beginning of 1772, he nominated him to a ſeat at the admiralty board, and in the latter part of the ſame year made him, in ſome meaſure, a partner with himſelf, in the management of the empire, by appointing him a lord of the treaſury.

* His firſt ſpeech was in oppoſition to Mr. Wilkes, then confined in the King's Bench; and whatever the *motives* of that gentleman might be, diſpaſſionate men will now be ready to avow, that, on this occaſion, his cauſe was not only popular, but juſt.

Amidſt

Amidſt this ſeeming devotion to the court, there were not wanting opportunities when he ſhook off the trammels of dependence, and allowed his manly mind to take its full ſcope. Not the leaſt memorable of theſe occurred during the debate on the bill brought into the Houſe of Commons by Sir William Meredith, to give relief from ſubſcription to the xxxix articles of the church of England; and in the liberal ſentiments delivered on that occaſion, Mr. Fox has firmly and uniformly perſevered, until the preſent moment.

But the time had now arrived, when a new direction was to be given to his purſuits. The real cauſe of this event, which involved ſo many important conſequences, can only be gueſſed at. The ſons of the Lords Guildford and Holland, were both poſſeſſed of talents; the one, perhaps, aſpired to, the other enjoyed, the ſupreme command; and, like two great men of antiquity, the firſt could not brook a ſuperior, nor the ſecond a rival. The enmity of the premier was developed in the refuſal of a petty appointment; it increaſed on the memorable examination of the Rev. Mr. Horne, now John H. Tooke, at the bar of the Houſe of Commons; and finally became public in conſequence of a billet, couched in terms of Spartan brevity *.

* "His Majeſty has thought proper to order a new commiſ-
" ſion of the treaſury to be made out, in which I don't perceive
" your name.

" NORTH."

" The Hon. Mr. Fox."

Conſidering this not merely as an injury, but an inſult, the enmity of Mr. Fox from that moment became public, and he at length raiſed ſuch a conſtitutional oppoſition to the adminiſtration of the noble lord, who had thus treated him in a manner bordering on contempt, that he, in the end, ſubverted his power, and dragged his antagoniſt to the very edge of the ſcaffold.

In the mean time Lord Holland died, leaving a large ſum of money, and conſiderable eſtates in the neighbourhood of Kingſgate, with the houſe there, built in imitation of Tully's Formian villa, on the coaſt of Baiæ, to his ſon Charles. He was thus in poſſeſſion of a plentiful fortune; and had he retained it, would have ſtood upon high ground in point of conſequence: for theſe bequeſts, in addition to the clerkſhip of the Pells, in Ireland, ſoon after ſold to Mr. Jenkinſon, now Lord Liverpool, muſt have produced a nett annual income of more than 4000*l. per annum.*

After the diſſipation of this large property, a common mind would, perhaps, have bent under the calamity; his, on the contrary, ſeems to have rebounded from the fall; and inſtead of ſinking into deſpair, to have actually ſoared into celebrity, and even independence.

A new and a noble field now opened to his ambition; and he commenced his career as a patriot, on principles which Locke has upheld, and Sydney would not have bluſhed to ſupport.

The members of that adminiſtration (ſuppoſed

by

by ſome to be only the puppets of a northern peer) had rendered themſelves deteſted by the oppreſſion of Mr. Wilkes, the proſecution of the printers, the countenance given to the riots at Brentford, and the military execution in St. George's-fields.

Another event, of infinitely greater magnitude, now filled up the bitter draught of popular odium; and the previous oppreſſion, and threatened ſubjugation of America, arouſed a general ſpirit of reſiſtance within the mother country, and pointed the finger of public vengeance at the devoted head of the premier. Fortunately for Mr. Fox's conſiſtency, his conduct reſpecting the tranſatlantic conteſt was ſtrictly uniform; and on this, as on a ſubſequent occaſion, he ſaw afar off, anticipated the impending calamities, and predicted the accumulation of misfortunes, which afterwards nearly overwhelmed the nation.

Accordingly, in 1774, he oppoſed the introduction of the Boſton Port bill, and apologized for the conduct of the colonies. In his ſpeech, on this occaſion, he arraigned the meaſures of the miniſter in bold and energetic language; and explained the principles of the violated conſtitution, with a maſculine eloquence worthy of the cauſe. The treaſury-bench now began, for the firſt time, to calculate the loſs it had ſuſtained, the oppoſition to eſtimate the ſtrength it had acquired; while the people rejoiced to behold, in the perſon of a youthful ſenator, whom they had been taught to

conſider

conſider as an enemy, a firm, an intrepid, and an eloquent advocate, ſuch as would not have diſgraced Rome in her beſt days.

He now ſat on the ſame ſeat with a Saville, a Barré, a Dunning, and a Burke, with the laſt of whom he had frequently broken a lance, in the war of argument, from the oppoſite ſide of the houſe; and he has ſince candidly avowed, that from this celebrated man he firſt imbibed thoſe enlightened maxims of government, profeſſed and acted upon by the pupil, alas! when the maſter himſelf ſeemed to have abandoned them.

On the diſcuſſion of Mr. Burke's conciliatory propoſitions, in 1775, Mr. F. ſtrenuouſly ſupported the liberal ſchemes of policy pointed out by that gentleman; and ſpoke and voted, during the whole conteſt, in direct oppoſition to a criminal ſyſtem, which, as it had been fondly and fallaciouſly prognoſticated, was to produce the unconditional ſubmiſſion of the colonies, and lay them proſtrate at the feet of the mother-country!

At length all the evils that had been foreſeen were realized. America, driven to deſpair, declared herſelf free and independent; monarchial France exerted her protecting arm acroſs the Atlantic; the capture of Burgoyne and Cornwallis proclaimed the triumphs of liberty; and a new conflagration lighted up in Europe, by the firebrands that had been ſcattered, by the Britiſh miniſtry, in another hemiſphere, waſted the ſtrength and exhauſted the reſources of England.

At

At the general election, in 1780, the family-borough of Midhurſt falling into other hands, and Mr. F. bluſhing, perhaps, at the idea of violating the very ſpirit and eſſence of a conſtitution which he now began, for the firſt time, to contemplate and venerate, determined to become a candidate for the city of Weſtminſter;—and he at length ſucceeded, after a violent conteſt, in which he baffled not only the intereſt of the Newcaſtle family, but alſo all the influence of the crown, both of which were powerfully, but unſucceſsfully, exerted againſt him. Being now the repreſentative, not of a petty venal borough, but of a great city, and that too without any expence to himſelf, he appeared in parliament in a more dignified capacity, and acquired a conſiderable increaſe of weight and conſequence.

Soon after this the miniſtry began to totter, and the political *rats* were in motion, in order to deſert the falling fabric. A minority, at firſt contemptible in point of numbers, but always formidable in reſpect to integrity and abilities, and which then claimed the preſent premier among the moſt zealous of its partizans, had increaſed in power and popularity. The miniſters were aſſailed within by the thunders of eloquence; without, they were overwhelmed by the clamours of an indignant people: to proceed in the war, was ruin; and to recede, betrayed them into perſonal danger. At length "the noble lord in the blue ribbon" (as Lord North had been generally called) was hunted into

the

the toils; and it was hoped, by many, that public juſtice awaited his miſdeeds: for in a conteſt in which oceans of blood had unjuſtly flowed, ſome one muſt have been criminal; and who more proper for an expiatory ſacrifice, than the oſtenſible author of ſo many calamities? Alas! had puniſhment been but inflicted on one ſingle ſolitary individual, all our ſubſequent calamities would have been averted, and the world taught to believe, that even in reſpect to *great offenders*, ſome connexion ſtill exiſted between guilt and puniſhment!

But the Rockingham party contented themſelves with the defeat of their opponents; and Mr. Fox was nominated to a ſeat in the cabinet, and appointed one of the Secretaries of State. The merit of this ſhort-lived adminiſtration was conſpicuous. Notwithſtanding they had ſucceeded to an empty exchequer, and a general war, they yet determined to free the people from ſome of their numerous grievances; and had they remained a little longer in power, infinitely more would have been effected. Contractors were excluded, by act of parliament, from the Houſe of Commons; cuſtom and exciſe officers were diſqualified from voting at elections; the proceedings, with regard to the Middleſex election, were reſcinded; while a reform-bill (rather ſpecious, however, in name, than reality) aboliſhed a number of uſeleſs offices. A more generous policy was alſo adopted in reſpect to Ireland; a general peace was already meditated; an ancient ally

was

was attempted to be ſoothed by an offer of negotiation*; and America, which could not be reſtored, was at leaſt intended to be conciliated.

In the midſt of theſe promiſing appearances, the nobleman, who was the key-ſtone that ſupported the diſcordant materials of the political arch, died ſuddenly, and the council-board was inſtantly divided by political ſchiſms.

The Marquis of Lanſdowne, who appears, at this time, to have had the ear of the king, but not a majority in the cabinet, was immediately intruſted with the reins of adminiſtration; and Mr. Fox determining (to make uſe of his own language) "never to connive at plans in private "which he could not publicly and conſiſtently "avow," retired from office with a numerous and reſpectable body of his friends.

In the mean time, the party left in poſſeſſion of all the great offices, concluded a peace with America, France, and Holland; but their adminiſteration proved of ſhort duration, for a grand political confederacy had now been formed againſt them. This, under the name of "the coalition," ſoon ſubverted their power, and ſupplanted them in office. No event, in our time, has produced more obloquy than the alliance between Mr. Fox and Lord North; and it is not to be concealed, that

* Mr. Fox, wiſhing to detach the Dutch from the coalition with the houſe of Bourbon, wrote a letter to M. Simolin, the Ruſſian miniſter, in which he offered to form a new treaty, on the baſis of that of 1764.

it

it was even then pregnant with inauſpicious reſults, and has ſince been productive of the moſt ſiniſter conſequences, as it enabled an ambitious young man to give the firſt ſtab to the conſtitution, by ſetting a vote of the Houſe of Commons, hitherto deemed inviolable, at defiance. The "India bill," of which Mr. Burke is ſaid to have been the penman, proved the rock, on which the veſſel of the ill-paired colleagues foundered; and it is not a little memorable, that their more fortunate rivals revived this very meaſure, and carried it triumphantly through parliament!

We now behold Mr. Fox once more diveſted of power, reduced, on a ſudden diſſolution of parliament, to ſhelter himſelf againſt accidents in the repreſentation of the Orkney Iſles *; and to contend with an unexampled perſeverance for a ſeat as member for Weſtminſter; which, after a memorable ſcrutiny, and an immenſe expenditure, ſupported by the great ariſtocratical families in his intereſt, he at length obtained.

He has ſince been re-elected to the ſame honourable poſt, and has ſteadily combated, as a repreſentative of the people, the influence of the crown; —that influence which, in his opinion, alone conſtitutes and produces all their grievances. His ſubſequent conduct has been ſuch as to reſtore the

* This is rather incorrect; Mr. Fox being returned for the diſtrict of boroughs, called Tain, Dingwall, &c. &c. Even here, however, he was oppoſed by Sir John Sinclair, but the intereſt of the preſent Lord (then Sir Thomas) Dundas finally prevailed.

current

current of popularity, and raiſe his name higher than before. His grand maxim, and ſurely it is immediately connected with the proſperity, and, perhaps, the exiſtence, of a manufacturing and commercial country, is the maintenance of peace. With this object in view, he oppoſed a conteſt with Ruſſia, about the fortreſs of Oczakow; and a conflict with Spain, concerning the peltry of Nootka Sound.

During the firſt ſtages of that melancholy event which led to the regency bill, Mr. Fox was wandering through the delightful regions of modern Italy, and ſeemed enchanted once more to tread on claſſic land. From this charming ſpot, he was called to witneſs, and to participate in, far different ſcenes, and finally to behold the party he oppoſed more firmly ſeated in power than before.

He has been blamed for his conduct during the impeachment of Mr. Haſtings, but he was ſupported by a majority of the Houſe of Commons on that occaſion, and by nearly all his political enemies. This meaſure was abſolutely neceſſary, in order to clear the honour of the nation, and prove to the oppreſſed inhabitants of India, that in England they would ſtill find avengers. It is not to be denied, however, that the trial was ſpun out to a moſt oppreſſive length, and that the ſuppoſed culprit at laſt ceaſed to be odious in the eyes of the people. The forms of the Houſe of Peers, as a court of juſtice, are, indeed, unfavourable to the diſpatch of buſineſs, but the

managers

managers ought, perhaps, either to have accelerated theſe, or to have withdrawn from a ſtruggle, when they perceived that the firſt ſtep towards puniſhment conſiſted in the oppreſſion of even a guilty individual!

No ſooner did the French nation evince a ſincere deſire to ſhake off the dominion of abſolute power, than Mr. Fox hailed the auſpicious dawn of riſing liberty, and deprecated the interference of this country, in a quarrel hoſtile to the principles on which ſhe had founded her proud pre-eminence. On this occaſion, he experienced the dereliction of many of his former aſſociates, and among others of that man from whoſe lips he had firſt imbibed the principles of freedom. Finding, however, that he and his friends were reduced to a ſcanty minority, he has ſince retired, in a great meaſure, from public buſineſs, and left the miniſter to triumph by means of the majorities in his intereſt. Nor is this all, for his name has been lately ſtruck out from the liſt of privy counſellors; an event which never occurred before in the preſent reign, and was only once exerciſed during the laſt, in reſpect to a nobleman * accuſed of cowardice and diſaffection.

As an orator, Mr. Fox is aſſuredly the firſt man of his age. He ſimplifies the moſt abſtruſe details, he analyzes the moſt complex arguments; he reduces the moſt ſubtle poſitions to the teſt of

* Lord George Germaine.

firſt

firſt principles. Animated himſelf, he animates others. Unambitious of melodious words and ſtudied phraſes, that dwell only on the ear; the ardour and preciſion of his reaſoning aſſail the judgment, while the irreſiſtible thunders of his eloquence at once influence and captivate the ſenſes. Struggling continually againſt the ſtream of power, he yet appears inferior to no man; and he wants only to ſtand on the "vantage ground" of ſucceſs, to be viewed as the greateſt ſtateſman of his age.

As an author, he has produced ſeveral ſpecimens of poetical compoſition, which, with due culture, might have attained excellence. His verſes to Mrs. Crewe have often been praiſed *.

His invocation "to Poverty" muſt, however, be allowed to be ſuperior, although it contains a national reflection that may offend ſome; it ought, notwithſtanding, to be recollected, that the Engliſh, *at that period*, were much diſguſted with the temporiſing conduct of their northern neighbours:

"O Poverty! of pale conſumptive hue,
"If thou delight'ſt to haunt me ſtill in view,
"If ſtill thy preſence muſt my ſteps attend,
"At leaſt continue, as thou art, my friend.
"When *Scotch example bids me be unjuſt*,
"Falſe to my word, unfaithful to my truſt,

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* "Where the loveliеſt expreſſion to features is join'd,
"By nature's moſt delicate pencil deſign'd;
"Where bluſhes unbidden, and ſmiles without art,
"Speak the ſoftneſs and feeling that dwell in the heart," &c.

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" Bid me the baneful error quickly ſee,
" And ſhun the world to find repoſe with thee.
" When vice to wealth would turn my partial eye,
" Or int'reſt ſhutting ear to ſorrow's cry;
" Or courtiers' cuſtom would my reaſon bind,
" My foe to flatter, or deſert my friend;
" Oppoſe, kind Poverty, thy temper'd ſhield,
" And bear me off unvanquiſh'd from the field.
" If giddy Fortune e'er return again,
" With all her idle, reſtleſs, wanton train,
" Her magic glaſs ſhould falſe Ambition hold,
" Or Av'rice bid me put my truſt in gold;
" To my relief, then, virtuous goddeſs, haſte,
" And with thee bring thy daughters ever chaſte,
" Health! Liberty! and Wiſdom! ſiſters bright,
" Whoſe charms can make the worſt condition light,
" Beneath the hardeſt fate the mind can cheer,
" Can heal affliction and diſarm deſpair;
" In chains, in torments, pleaſure can bequeath,
" And dreſs in ſmiles the tyrant hour of death!"

The letter * " To the worthy and independent Electors of the City and Liberty of Weſtminſter," is his only avowed proſe publication, and this has experienced a nearly unexampled ſale, having run through twelve or thirteen large editions. On this occaſion, he makes a manly appeal to his conſtituents; and, in a clear and conſpicuous ſtyle, deprecates the idea of foreign alliances, and inſiſts on the neceſſity of acknowledging the French republic as an independent ſtate. While alluding to the ridiculous project of ſubjugating that power, by external force, he expreſſes himſelf thus:

* Publiſhed in 1793.

" The

" The conqueſt of France!!! O! calumniated
" cruſaders, how rational and moderate were your
" projects! O! much-injured Lewis XIV, upon
" what ſlight grounds have you been accuſed of
" reſtleſs and inordinate ambition! O! tame and
" feeble Cervantes, with what a timid pencil and
" faint colours have you painted the portrait of a
" diſordered imagination!"

Of the *private* life of this great orator, the public may be anxious to know a few authentic particulars. Mr. Fox no longer reſides any part of the year in town, having diſpoſed of his houſe in South-ſtreet; when he viſits London, which is but ſeldom, he ſtays ſometimes at the houſe of his old friend General Fitzpatrick, and ſometimes at a hotel in the neighbourhood of New Bond-ſtreet. Except during the ſhooting ſeaſon, when he viſits Mr. Coke, &c. in Norfolk, he lives chiefly at St. Ann's-hill, near Chertſey. There he ſuperintends the cultivation of his grounds, enjoys the pleaſures of horticulture, and amuſes himſelf in forming his ſhrubberies. To " the roſe," the theme of the Perſian Poets, he ſeems particularly attached; for he has a parterre near his houſe, in which there are no leſs than thirty different ſpecies of this beautiful ſhrub. He alſo poſſeſſes a great taſte for botany; and has been at infinite pains to render himſelf maſter of the Linnæan ſyſtem.

In general, he riſes about ſeven o'clock, mounts his horſe inſtantly, rides to the river, and plunges

into the Thames. He then returns to breakfaſt, which is over before ten. The forenoon is, for the moſt part, dedicated to his books; and is accordingly ſpent in ſtudy. Before dinner, he takes a walk or ride, around the neighbouring village, ſits down to table a little after three o'clock, and *lives well*, and like a gentleman, without any appearance, however, of luxury or oſtentation. After indulging in a few glaſſes of port or ſherry, he retires with his gueſts about ſix to the tea-room, which preſents a moſt delightful proſpect in the ſummer ſeaſon; and after a couple of diſhes of coffee, a glaſs of *liqueur de Martinique* is handed round to the company.

The evenings are uſually dedicated to domeſtic entertainments. Ofttimes he reads, and then generally aloud; at other times he plays at ſome manly game on the lawn, or liſtens to the muſic of a favourite lady while fingering the *piano-forte*, or the pedal harp. The evening is not unfrequently ſpent at the HOLLAND, a charming octagon building, dedicated and inſcribed to his nephew, Henry Lord Holland. From this building is to be ſeen a moſt luxuriant view of the ſurrounding country; but the eye is unwilling to roam abroad, as it is ornamented with beautiful paintings by the ſkilful hand of Mrs. Armſtead.

While the hirelings of miniſtry are repreſenting him as "plotting againſt the ſtate," he is, moſt probably, peruſing Homer in the original language of the immortal bard; or the "conſpirator" is,

perhaps,

perhaps, dandling a child in his arms, or, peradventure, if it be in the ſummer ſeaſon, playing at trap-ball on the graſs!

In perſon, Mr. Fox is ſomewhat above the middling ſize, and, of late years, is rather inclined to be fat. His features, which are ſtrongly marked, exhibit an appearance of ſhrewdneſs and ability; and his eye, in the midſt of debate, or the animation of an intereſting converſation, flaſhes with fire.

No portrait has been oftener painted; and he muſt be a very inaccurate artiſt, indeed, who cannot hit off the ſaturnine complexion, the piercing look, and the arched and buſhy eye-brow of the great commoner. The chiſſel, as well as the pencil, has been employed in giving durability to his reſemblance; for a great number of buſts have been executed, of late years, in marble, by * Nollekens; and one in *terra cotta* has ſtill more recently been finiſhed by Merchant, as a model for a gem.

The following addreſs to Mr. Fox, is by one of the greateſt ſcholars of the age:

* No leſs than thirty-two have been finiſhed by this ſculptor, at ſixty guineas each, for the Empreſs of Ruſſia, the Dukes of Devonſhire and Portland, Lord Albermarle, &c. &c. &c.

CAROLO JACOBO FOX
Quòd veram illam & abſolutam eloquentiam
non modò coluerit, ſed cultam, qua potuit,
ad Salutem Patriæ Dignitatemque tuendam contulerit;
Quòd in ſuſcipiendis ſive amicitiis, ſive inimicitiis,
has ſemper voluerit Mortales
habere, illas Sempiternas;
Quòd Mente ſolida invictaque permanſerit in propoſito,
atque improborum ſpreverit minas;
Quòd in Cauſa, quæ maxime popularis eſſe debuiſſet,
Non populariter ille quidem,
ut alii ficte et fallaciter populares,
ſed ſtrenue ac fortiter verſatus ſit;
Quòd denique, in fœdiſſimo illo
Optimi prudentiſſimique Senatus naufragio,
Id demum, imò id ſolum,
quod turpe eſſet,
Miſerum exiſtimârit, atque adeò cum bonis
Libere πολιτευτέον ſtatuerit,
potius quam periculoſe & ſimulate & cupide
inter malos,
Librum huncce ea, qua par eſt, Obſervantia,
D.D.D.
A. E. A. O.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM PITT,

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, &c. &c.

TO attempt the delineation of the life and character of a miniſter of ſtate, is, at all times, a difficult, delicate, and ſometimes a dangerous taſk; for the paſſions of the generality of men are too much agitated to attend to cool diſcuſſion while they contemplate the immediate political ſituation of their country, more eſpecially at a period like the preſent, ſo replete with important and ſingular events.

The ſubject of this article is, in many points of view, the moſt conſpicuous prime miniſter which modern Europe has ever beheld; whether he be conſidered in reſpect to his ſplendid talents, his wonderful ſucceſs, or the ſingular events which have occurred during his adminiſtration. His hiſtory will include the annals of the moſt remarkable epoch in modern times; and he will be juſtly deemed by future ages, the maſter ſpring which gave motion to the proceedings of all the cabinets of Europe. A large ſhare of the good or evil which may reſult, will be ſolely aſcribed to his councils. In ſhort, he may be conſidered as uniting the ſtriking qualities of the Cecils, the Walſinghams, the Richlieus, the Mazarines, the

Straffords, the Louvois, the Alberonis, and the Walpoles; for to none of theſe is he inferior either in abilities or in eloquence.

This country never had a miniſter of whom ſuch different opinions have been entertained as of the preſent, and indeed no former one was ever placed in ſuch critical circumſtances. In ſhort, the memorable hiſtory of this ſtateſman, compriſing, as it neceſſarily muſt, a review of his political operations, will be reſorted to, at ſome future period, as one of the moſt intereſting and inſtructive performances that can occupy the attention of mankind.

William Pitt, the illuſtrious Earl of Chatham, had three ſons, of whom, the preſent miniſter, is the youngeſt. He was born May 8, 1759, at a time when his father's glory was at its zenith; and when, in conſequence of the wiſdom of his councils, and the vigour and promptitude of his deciſions, Britiſh valour reigned triumphant in every part of the globe.

On the acceſſion of his preſent majeſty, that great ſtateſman, in conſequence of new arrangements, chiefly occaſioned by the riſing influence of the Earl of Bute, retired from the ſtation which he had ſo honourably filled; and conſigning his other ſons to the care of others, he devoted his own time to the education of WILLIAM, on a ſtrong and well-founded perſuaſion (as he was in the habit of ſaying) that "he would one day encreaſe the glory "of the name of PITT."

His

His claſſical knowledge Mr. Pitt acquired under the care of a private tutor at Burton-Pynſent, the ſeat of his father; and the Earl took great pleaſure in teaching him, while ſtill a youth, to argue with logical preciſion, and to ſpeak with elegance and force. He judiciouſly accuſtomed him to the practice of making accurate enquiries reſpecting every ſubject that caught his attention, and taught him not to remain ſatisfied with a ſuperficial obſervation of appearances.

Theſe leſſons brought him into an early practice of cool and patient inveſtigation, rarely, if ever, acquired by thoſe who prefer the trappings of eloquence, and the ſhowy ornaments of language, to plain ſober diction, and pertinent matter of fact.

Under ſuch an able paternal guide, an acute mind could not fail to imbibe a ſtore of ſound practical knowledge. The earl, with his uſual perſpicacity, fancied he ſaw in his ſon a future ſtateſman, and, in all probability, a future miniſter of his country alſo. It was a laudable ambition in a father, and to gratify it he ſpared no exertions; directing his whole attention to the great object of rendering his ſon accompliſhed in all things requiſite to form a public character, and to preſerve the luſtre already attached to the name of WILLIAM PITT.

He, himſelf, frequently entered into diſputations with him, and encouraged him to converſe with others, upon ſubjects far above what could be expected from his years. In the management of theſe

theſe arguments, his father would never ceaſe to preſs him with difficulties; nor would he permit him to ſtop, till the ſubject of contention was completely exhauſted. By being inured to this method, the ſon acquired that quality which is of the firſt conſequence in public life—a ſufficient degree of firmneſs, and preſence of mind, as well as a ready delivery, in which he was wonderfully aided both by nature and education.

That he might enjoy all the benefits of inſtruction which this country could give him, and, at the ſame time, by a rapid progreſs in the preliminary ſtudies, qualify himſelf early for the ſenate, he was taken, at between fourteen and fifteen years of age, from his father's roof, and the care of a very enlightened and worthy clergyman, Mr. (now Dr.) Wilſon, and ſent to Pembroke college, Cambridge, where he was admitted under the tuition of Meſſrs. Turner and Prettyman, both very able men, and willing to ſecond, to the utmoſt of their power, the intentions of his father. Mr. Prettyman was alſo his private inſtructor, and a better choice could not have been made, as far as claſſical and mathematical knowledge were concerned. For eloquence he could not look up to either of his inſtructors; but his father's example and precepts required no further aſſiſtance on that head.

In Cambridge he became a model to the young nobility and fellow-commoners; and it was not doubted that, if the privileges of his rank had not exempted him from the uſual exerciſes for the bachelor's

bachelor's degree, he would have been found among the firſt competitors for academical honours. On his admiſſion, according to cuſtom, to his maſter's degree, the public orator found it needleſs to ſearch into his genealogy, or even to dwell much upon the virtues of his father, for the eyes of the univerſity were fixed on the youth; the enraptured audience aſſented to every encomium, and each breaſt was filled with the livelieſt preſages of future greatneſs. To the honour of Mr. Pitt it muſt be ſpoken, that he has been duly ſenſible of the care taken of his riſing years. His tutors have received repeated marks of his acknowledgment. Dr. Wilſon, his firſt inſtructor, is now canon of Windſor; and one of his ſons has a lucrative ſinecure in Jamaica. The worthy Dr. Turner is Dean of Norwich; Dr. Prettyman has received the Biſhopric of Lincoln, and the Deanery of St. Paul's, and will, doubtleſs, not be overlooked in future promotions.

Mr. P. was afterwards entered a ſtudent of Lincoln's Inn, and made ſo rapid a progreſs in his legal ſtudies, as to be ſoon called to the bar, with every proſpect of ſucceſs.

We are informed, that he once or twice went upon the Weſtern circuit, and appeared as junior counſel in ſeveral cauſes. He was, however, deſtined to fill a more important ſtation in the government of his country, than is uſually obtained through the channel of the law.

At the general election, 1780, we find him nominated

nominated by ſome of the moſt reſpectable perſons in Cambridge as a candidate to repreſent that univerſity; but notwithſtanding the high character he had obtained there, he found very few to ſecond his pretenſions. In the following year, however, he was returned for the borough of Appleby, by the intereſt of Sir James Lowther. On taking his ſeat in the Houſe of Commons, he enliſted himſelf on the ſide of the party which had conſtantly oppoſed the miniſter, Lord North, and the American war, and which regarded him with a degree of veneration; recogniſing in his perſon the genius of his illuſtrious father revived and acting, as it were, in him. His firſt ſpeech was in favour of Mr. Burke's bill; and one of the firſt acts, in which he took the lead in that Houſe, was extremely well calculated to increaſe his popularity; this was his motion for a committee, to conſult upon the moſt effectual means to accompliſh a more equal repreſentation of the people in parliament. His propoſitions were, indeed, rejected; but he continued to repeat and renew them from time to time; and thus kept up the public attention to this great object, which was, conſequently, more generally canvaſſed than it ever had been before.

On the death of the Marquis of Rockingham, the old Whig party fell into a ſtate of diſunion, nearly bordering upon diſſolution. A new arrangement took place ſoon after, and Lord Shelburne became the firſt Lord of the Treaſury, aſſiſted by Mr. Pitt, who aſtoniſhed the country,

and,

and, indeed, all Europe, by the phenomenon of a Chancellor of the Exchequer at the age of *twenty-three!*

His popularity at this period effectually ſcreened him from every charge which his youth and inexperience might juſtly have warranted, and which were ſtrongly urged againſt him by the adverſe faction. The ſituation of the country was extremely critical. The American war had become generally odious; and all hearts panted for a ceſſation of hoſtilities. This deſirable object was, therefore, the firſt conſideration with the new miniſtry.

The combined powers had recently experienced great humiliations, and conſequently the opportunity was not to be loſt. A general peace accordingly took place; but the terms of it were reprobated by a conſiderable part of the nation. On this occaſion, Mr. Pitt delivered a moſt maſterly defence of himſelf and his colleagues, which produced a correſponding, though not ſucceſsful, effect. The adminiſtration, of which he was one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed members, was, therefore, ſhort-lived. On its diſſolution, the young ſtateſman withdrew into retirement, and afterwards went abroad for ſome time, viſiting Italy, and ſeveral of the German courts.

On the coalition-miniſtry coming into place, Mr. Mansfield's ſeat for the univerſity became vacant, by accepting the office of ſolicitor-general, and Mr. Pitt determined to oppoſe him: with this view he went down to Cambridge; but was treated

with

with contempt, by the heads and ſenior members. One almoſt threw the door in his face, and wondered at the impudence of the young man, thus to come down and diſturb the peace of the univerſity! From ſuch a ſcene he retired in a few days, in diſguſt; though the aſſurances of ſupport from ſeveral independent maſters of arts, kept alive the ſcanty hopes of future ſucceſs. A few months, however, changed the ſcene; the coalition-miniſtry was thrown out, he repaired in triumph to the univerſity, was received with open arms, carried his election by means of a conſiderable majority, and was able, alſo, by his influence, to make Lord Euſton his colleague. For a time, the tergiverſation of the ſenate was a theme of converſation; the moſt notorious of the gown who had changed ſides were marked by the contempt of the unſucceſsful, but they laughed at their own diſgrace, being gratified by the rewards of the ſucceſsful candidates; mitres, and ſtalls, and livings, became the portion of the Cambridge men. But few of the independent maſters, who would have ſupported him when out of power, and did ſo on his acceſſion to the miniſtry, were to be found among his voters at the next election; they conſidered him as having receded from thoſe principles of liberty, on which he had firſt acted; for he had now become cool in his zeal for that reform of parliament, which had, in conjunction with his great talents, firſt entitled him to their notice.

An occaſion, as we have juſt remarked, ſuddenly offered, in 1784, for bringing Mr. Pitt forward

once

once more on the great theatre of politics, as a candidate for fame and power. The Britiſh dominions in India had long been in an alarming ſituation, and it was generally admitted that an immediate remedy was indiſpenſably neceſſary to preſerve them. With this view, Mr. Fox, then Secretary of State, formed, digeſted, and brought forward his famous India bill, which he carried through its ſeveral ſtages with a high hand.

The coalition-miniſtry, compoſed of ſuch an heterogeneous mixture, notwithſtanding their majority in the Houſe of Commons, were generally obnoxious to the nation, and this meaſure was particularly offenſive to the great body whom it immediately affected. Lord North and his new allies were accordingly dimiſſed, and that too in a very unconſtitutional manner, and Mr. Pitt, the new Premier, was aſſiſted by the advice of Lord Thurlow, as keeper of the great ſeal—arrangements which, at that time, were, however, only conſidered as temporary!

He now aſtoniſhed the commercial and political world, by his own India bill! He had, however, the mortification to find the majority of the Houſe of Commons againſt him; and he was placed in the peculiar ſituation of a miniſter acting with a minority, and that too in oppoſition to the ſtrongeſt conflux of talents ever combined againſt any adminiſtration. He, however, remained firm in his ſeat amidſt a general confuſion; and though the Houſe had petitioned his Majeſty, to diſmiſs him and his coadjutors, our young Premier ventured to

inform

inform the repreſentatives of the nation that their petition could not be complied with !

This ſtruggle between the Commons and the Crown was of the greateſt importance; but the people, at large, were of opinion, that the former encroached upon the regal prerogatives; and on the queſtion being, in a manner, thrown into their hands by a diſſolution of Parliament, a new one was returned, which changed the majority, and preſerved the Premier in a poſt which he has ſturdily maintained ever ſince!

Various public meaſures have, of courſe, during a period of fourteen years, been brought forward by this active miniſter; to notice which, would far exceed the bounds of a memoir, ſo limited in its object, as the preſent. They are incorporated in the hiſtory of his country, and at preſent familiarly recollected by his contemporaries.

The commercial treaty with France was a bold ſcheme, and evinced deep political and mercantile knowledge. But the moſt critical circumſtance in the annals of Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration, and that on which his biographer ſhould dwell the moſt, is the period when the regal powers were, in a manner, unhappily ſuſpended, and all the wiſdom of the legiſlature was required to form a regency. It was a criſis not only novel, but of extreme magnitude, as likely to become the precedent for future times; no ſuch incident having, till then, occurred in the annals of our hiſtory.

Some ſtateſmen would have worſhipped the riſing ſun; Mr. Pitt, and his colleagues, however, purſued

a different

a different courſe, and thereby added greatly to their popularity, and effectually ſecured themſelves in power.

But if, on ſome occaſions, he has courted the favour of the people, he certainly has not always ſacrificed at their ſhrine. He appears, indeed, to have a proper conception of the value in which popular eſteem is to be held, but to be ſenſible, at the ſame time, that it ought not to influence the conduct of a legiſlator, if evidently repugnant to the true intereſts of the country.

When the revolution took place in France, the ſituation of the prime miniſter of this kingdom became once more extremely critical.

The aſpect of Europe has aſſumed a new face, ſince the monarchy of France was ſhaken from its ancient baſis. A war has enſued totally different from all former wars. In judging, therefore, of the merits of thoſe who are concerned in managing the affairs of the nation, it is impoſſible to have recourſe either to precedents, or to old political principles. A new mode of action, a new ſcheme of politics, was to be deviſed, and adapted to the exiſting circumſtances.

If any merit be due to boldneſs of invention, to vigour of execution, to wide extenſion of plans, and to firmneſs and perſeverance of conduct, certainly the preſent adminiſtration has an undoubted claim to public gratitude; it muſt, however, be allowed, that they are accuſed of having trenched more than once on the liberties of the people.

An attention to commerce has greatly diſtinguiſhed Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration, particularly during the preſent conteſt. Perhaps there is no man in the kingdom better acquainted with the principles of trade than he is. The oldeſt, and moſt experienced, merchants have been aſtoniſhed at his readineſs in converſing with them upon ſubjects of which they thought themſelves excluſively maſters. Many who have waited upon him in full confidence that they ſhould communicate ſome new and important information, have, to their great ſurpriſe, found him minutely and intimately acquainted with all thoſe points to which they conceived he was a ſtranger. By the cloſe attention which he has uniformly paid to the mercantile intereſts, he has alſo ſecured to himſelf an excluſive baſis of ſupport, which has enabled him not only to reſiſt a moſt vigorous oppoſition, but to carry into effect financial meaſures until his time deemed impracticable.

Some men have charged him with political tergiverſation, on the ground of having abandoned, if not oppoſed, the project of a parliamentary reform. If he really conſiders ſuch a reform as no longer neceſſary, it will not be difficult to exonerate him from this heavy accuſation. But there certainly is a great differance between abſolute apoſtacy, and an occaſional ceſſation from a particular ſyſtem of opinions or line of conduct. It does not follow that Mr. Pitt is an enemy to neceſſary reform, becauſe he conſiders the exiſting circumſtances of the country as too critical to admit the trial of the experiment.

As

As a public ſpeaker, the miniſter is not to be characterized by over-ſtrained parallels, drawn from the orators of antiquity. He poſſeſſes rather the elegance and grace of Cicero, than the fire of Demoſthenes. He diſplays, however, more of the acute logician, than of the perſuaſive rhetorician; but his voice, though clear and powerful, poſſeſſes not thoſe modulations that charm the ear, and ſteal upon the heart. His deficiencies, however, are more than counterbalanced by a concluſive and forcible method of reaſoning, added to a facility of ſtating his arguments, which makes them not only conceivable to the meaneſt underſtanding, but gives them frequently a preciſion and vigour which may be pronounced irreſiſtible.

The Premier alſo poſſeſſes an advantage of ineſtimable value, in a miniſter of ſtate, namely, a great command over his temper, added to much coolneſs, during the ardour of debate.

This enables him to reply clearly and particularly to the arguments of his opponents, and to defend his cauſe, by often turning their own weapons upon themſelves. Though he is confident, and, frequently, it muſt be confeſſed, even arrogant, in his ſpeeches, which ſometimes provokes the oppoſition orators to uſe harſh language, yet he ſeldom loſes his own temper, or retorts in anger.

His action is not ſtrictly graceful, which is, in ſome meaſure owing to the diſadvantage of an exterior, which, however dignified, is yet not engaging;

gaging; for he is very tall, and deficient in *em bon point*. His countenance is alſo ſevere and forbidding, expreſſive, indeed (in the language of phyſiognomiſts), of a capacious mind, and inflexible reſolution; but alſo of a too lofty, and, perhaps, unbending ſpirit.

Mr. Pitt forms, in *all* points, a direct contraſt to his political opponent: and it is certainly a curious circumſtance, that two ſuch extraordinary men ſhould be as oppoſite in their private characters, as in their public career. In debate, Mr. Fox is vehement, Mr. Pitt cool. The one is frank and open, the other cloſe and reſerved. The urbanity of the ex-miniſter gains him friends, among all parties; the *hauteur* and *ſang froid* of the Premier, does not conciliate even his aſſociates.

Mr. Pitt is the ſame guarded and unbending politician in his ſocial hours, that he is in the Houſe of Commons.

In private life, his ſole pleaſures are of an official and convivial nature.

Ambition is the ruling paſſion of his ſoul, before which every other ſinks into inſignificance; and at the ſhrine of this goddeſs, and at that of Bacchus, he is ſuppoſed alone to pay his devotions. That his health and talents may not ſuffer by the latter, and that his country may proſper under the influence of the former, is the earneſt wiſh of the writer of this article,

J. W.

ERASMUS

ERASMUS DARWIN, M.D. F.R.S.

THIS celebrated man is the ſon of a gentleman of landed property, near Newark-upon-Trent. From a country ſchool he was transferred to the univerſity, and entered at St. John's, Cambridge, where, being intended for the practice of medicine, he took the degree of M.B. in 1755; and in his theſis defended the opinion that the motion of the heart and arteries are produced by the immediate *ſtimulus* of the blood.

On the death of the preſent king's father, when all the men of talents in the nation bewailed the loſs of a prince whom they had fondly hoped would prove a future Mæcenas, he contributed to the Cambridge collection of odes and elegies; but his verſes on that occaſion do not ſeem to have conferred any reputation on their author, as they were undiſtinguiſhed from the exertions of far inferior talents, and afforded no great promiſe of future excellence.

After an education, admirably adapted to his intended profeſſion, and a previous degree of M.D. Dr. Darwin determined to practiſe; and finding the buſineſs of the capital entirely monopolized by a few men of celebrity, brought into notice by the zeal of friends, the intereſt of family connexions, and the recommendation and protection of the great, he determined to ſettle in the country. Luckily for the city of Lichfield, that place was pitched upon for the ſcene of his labours, and he

reſided there for a great number of years. If he ſtill retained a taſte for poetry, it was either carefully ſuppreſſed, or the favours of the muſe anxiouſly concealed; he, however, diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a philoſopher and phyſician, for as far back as 1758, he publiſhed in vol. L. of the Philoſophical Tranſactions, "An Attempt to confute the Opinion of Henry Earle, concerning the Aſcent of Vapour;" and "An Account of the Cure of a periodical Hæmoptoe, by keeping the Patient awake." This was followed by "Experiments on Animal Fluids in the exhauſted Receiver."

In the mean time, he had bred his ſon Charles, a promiſing young man, to his own profeſſion, and ſent him to Edinburgh, then, as now, the great European ſchool of phyſic. There he was unfortunately carried off by a fever, at the very time he was enquiring into the nature and cure of diſeaſes, before he had attained the 20th year of his age *. To the ſorrowing father was left the mournful taſk of being the editor of his poſthumous work; and he accordingly publiſhed, in 1780, "Experiments eſtabliſhing a Criterion between Mucilaginous and Purulent Matter: and an Account of the Retrogade Motions of the Abſorbent Veſſels of Animal Bodies in ſome Diſeaſes."

In 1782, the Botanical Society of Lichfield publiſhed Linnæus' "Syſtem of Vegetables," which

* Dr. D. has five ſons, and ſeveral daughters, now living; one of the former, practiſes the law at Derby; another is a phyſician at Shrewſbury.

is

is thought to have been chiefly the production of Dr. Darwin, one of its two principal members.

Early in 1789, enliſted again by ſcience in the train of the muſes, he burſt forth like a comet in the hemiſphere of poetry, by the publication of the "Botanical Garden;" Part II.* containing "the Loves of the Plants," which then made its firſt appearance. The idea of the ſexual ſyſtem had been long before elucidated by the great Swediſh naturaliſt; and it, indeed, ſeems to have been coeval with, and, moſt probably, long anterior to Claudian:

"Vivunt in Venerem frondes; nemus omne per altum,
"Felix arbor amat; nutant ad mutua Palmæ
"Fædera, populeo ſuſpirat Populus ictu,
"Et Platani Platanis, Alnoque affibelat Alnus."

The poem conſiſts of four cantos; the three firſt of which are followed by a dialogue, and the preface contains a ſummary of the Linnæan arrangement. The intention of this part of the work is to render an attachment to botanical ſtudies at once more common and more delightful.

"Botanic Muse! who, in his latter age,
"Led by your airy hand the Swediſh ſage,
"Bade his keen eye your ſecret haunts explore,
"On dewy dell, high wood, and winding ſhore;

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* Four editions of this volume, and three of the ſecond, have been already publiſhed. The greater part of his "Botanical Garden" is ſaid to have been compoſed by him twenty years before its publication.

"Say on each leaf how tiny graces dwell;
" How laugh the pleaſures in a bloſſom's bell;
" How inſect loves ariſe on cobweb wings,
" Aim their light ſhafts, and point their little ſtings."

The ſcientific turn of the notes, and the agreeable medium of the poetry*, excited an uncommon degree of curioſity for the publication of Part I. containing "the Economy of Vegetation;" which, on account of ſome experiments, was delayed until 1791. On this occaſion, he recurs to Lucretius:

" It Ver, et Venus; et Veneris prænuncius ante
" Pennatus Graditur Zephyrus Veſtigia prôpter,
" Flora quibus mater, præſpergens ante Viai
" Cuncta coloribus egregiis et odoribus opplet."

At the beginning of Canto I. the genius of the place, the ſcenery of which is borrowed from a garden, about a mile from Lichfield, where a cold bath was erected by Sir John Floyer, ſolicits the appearance of the goddeſs preſiding over botany, who, on her deſcent, is received by Spring and the Elements. Then follow the exploſion of chaos, the revolution of the ſtars, the appearance of lightning, the rainbow, luminous flowers, the glow-worm, fire-fly, electric-eel, meduſa, ſteam engine, &c.

The

* Some of the lines are peculiarly expreſſive, ſuch as

" On her fair boſom ſits the demon ape
" Erect, and balances his bloated ſhape;
" *Rolls in their marble orbs his gorgon-eyes,*
" *And drinks with leathern ears her tender cries.*"

The

The following lines deſerve great praiſe; and not the leaſt merit is, that poſterior diſcoveries ſeem to be faſt realiſing the predictions of the poet:

" Soon ſhall thy arm, UNCONQUER'D STEAM! afar
" Drag the ſlow barge, or drive the rapid car;
" Or on wide-waving wings, expanded, bear
" Thy flying chariot through the fields of air.
" ——— Fair crews triumphant, leaning from above,
" Shall wave their flutt'ring 'kerchiefs as they move;
" Or warrior-bands alarm the gaping crowd,
" And armies ſhrink beneath the ſhadowy cloud:
" So mighty Hercules o'er many a clime
" Wav'd his huge mace in Virtue's cauſe ſublime,
" Unmeaſur'd ſtrength with early art combin'd,
" Aw'd, ſerv'd, protected, and amaz'd mankind.——
" Firſt," &c.

The ſecond Canto commences with an addreſs to the Gnomes. We then find the earth thrown from a volcano of the ſun; its atmoſphere, ocean, and journey through the zodiac, are deſcribed. We hear of primeval iſlands, paradiſe, or the golden age; the firſt great earthquakes, continents raiſed from the ſea, &c.

The third, and laſt Canto, commences with an addreſs to the Nymphs; next follows the theory of rain and of tides, an account of marine animals,

The "vampire-wings" of the ague, "the young wonder," with which the cherubs, while riding on their little reeds,

" ——— touch the ſliding ſnail,
" *Admire his eye-tipp'd horns, and painted mail,*" &c.

are expreſſions peculiarly felicitous.

rivers,

rivers, boiling fountains in Iceland, and warm medicinal ſprings, ſuch as Buxton, &c. &c.

It is eaſy to perceive, in this very intereſting performance, that Dr. Darwin has had recourſe to the Roſicrucian machinery, in his "Botanic Garden," for the ſame reaſon that Pope adopted it, in his celebrated poem of "The Rape of the Lock." In the formation of the planets, he employs the doctrines of Buffon; in his natural hiſtory, he bends at the ſhrine of the Swede, while he follows the new doctrines reſpecting air, from the Prieſtleian and Lavoiſerian ſyſtems.

A deep attention to botany, and a thorough conviction of the advantages ariſing from ſyſtem, induced Dr. Darwin to turn his mind towards the improvement of his own profeſſion, and to become, as it were, the Linnæus of Medicine. Impreſſed with this novel idea, in the beginning of 1794, he publiſhed the firſt volume of his "Zoonomia, or the Laws of Organic Life;" in which, leaving his former work in poſſeſſion of the vegetable world, he propoſes, "to reduce the "facts belonging to animal life into claſſes, orders, "genera, and ſpecies; and, by comparing them "with each other, to unravel the theory of "diſeaſes."

Much preliminary matter is given in ſeparate ſections, reſpecting the immediate organs of ſenſe; and an able theory of ideas follows. We next meet with the laws of animal *cauſation*, and an exemplification of the tranſitions of irritative into ſenſative,

and

and of ſenſative into voluntary, motions; on this occaſion, we find a diſſertation on *unperceived ideas*, and learn, "that all our perceptions are ideas ex-"cited by irritation, and ſucceeded by ſenſation." Reſpecting the doctrines of *ſtimulus* and *exertion*, the author is a great advocate for the ſyſtem of the late unfortunate Dr. Brown, which he ably and amply elucidates and explains.

Proceeding in an aſcending ratio, he conſiders ſleep and reverie, giddineſs and drunkenneſs; with an account of the diſeaſes ariſing from the laſt of theſe, &c. &c.

In 1796, vol. II. made its appearance; and as the former may be conſidered as ſtrictly theoretical, this contains a practical application of the principles, and is divided into two grand ſections; containing, firſt, the nature and cure of particular diſeaſes; and, ſecondly, the operation of medicines.

Of this work, it has been ſaid, by a celebrated profeſſor of the medical art, that the "Zoono-"mia bids fair to do for phyſic, what the Princi-"pia of Sir Iſaac Newton has done for natural "philoſophy:" after this, it would be folly to add our mite of praiſe.

Dr. Darwin now reſides at Derby, where he enjoys an extenſive practice, and univerſal eſteem. His time is entirely devoted to his profeſſional duties, and literary avocations. Entirely devoid of that affectation of ſtatelineſs, ſo common in pretenders to ſcience, he freely communicates his knowledge,

knowledge, and poſſeſſes an inexhauſtible fund of anecdote and good humour. When the weather permits, he ſpends much time in his botanic garden; and is now occupied about an important work on agriculture.

While his ample and capacious mind graſps the grandeſt operations of nature, he can yet condeſcend to comparatively trifling labours, provided they be connected with human happineſs. A proof of this exiſts in the attention lately paid by him to a ſubject in which the deareſt intereſts of ſociety are involved—the education of females, or the beſt means of making affectionate daughters, good wives, and tender mothers.

SIR GEORGE LEONARD STAUNTON, BARONET,

IS the ſon of a gentleman, of ſmall fortune, in the county of Galway, in the kingdom of Ireland, and was ſent by his parents, early in life, to ſtudy medicine at Montpelier, where he took the degree of M.D. After he had finiſhed his ſtudies, he repaired to London, and employed himſelf in tranſlating ſome medical eſſays, written by Dr. Storck of Vienna; profeſſing wonderful facility in the attainment of different languages, he at the ſame time drew up in French, for the *Journal Etranger*, a compariſon between the literature of England and France.

About

About the year 1762, Dr. Staunton embarked for the Weſt-Indies, as we find from a farewel letter written to him by the late Dr. Johnſon, given by Mr. Boſwell in his Life of that great man. This epiſtle is replete with excellent advice, and does equal credit to the writer, and the perſon to whom it is addreſſed.

Dr. S. reſided, for ſeveral years, in the Weſt-Indies, where he acquired ſome addition to his fortune by the practice of phyſic; purchaſed an eſtate in Grenada, which he cultivated; and had the good fortune to obtain the friendſhip of the preſent Lord Macartney, governor of that iſland, to whom he acted as ſecretary, and continued in that capacity until the capture of it by the French, when they both embarked for Europe. Having ſtudied the law, while in Grenada, Dr. S. filled the office of Attorney-general of the iſland.

Soon after Lord Macartney's arrival in England, he was appointed governor of Madras, and took Mr. S. with him (for he ſeems now to have loſt the appellation of *Doctor*) as his ſecretary. In this capacity, Mr. S. had ſeveral opportunities of diſplaying his abilities and intrepidity, particularly as one of the commiſſioners ſent to treat of peace with Tippoo Sultaun, and in the ſeizure of Gen. Stuart, who ſeemed to have been preparing to act by Lord Macartney as had been before done by the unfortunate Lord Pigot. The Secretary was ſent with a ſmall party of ſeapoys to arreſt the general, which

he

he effected with great ſpirit and prudence, and without bloodſhed.

On his return to England, the India Company, as a reward for his ſervices, ſettled on him a penſion of 500l. *per annum*; the King ſoon after created him a baronet of Ireland, and the Univerſity of Oxford conferred on him the degree of LL.D.

It having been reſolved to ſend an embaſſy to China, Lord Macartney was ſelected for that purpoſe, and he took his old friend and countryman along with him, who was not only appointed Secretary of Legation, but had alſo the title of Envoy-extraordinary and Miniſter-plenipotentiary beſtowed on him, in order to be able to ſupply the place of the ambaſſador in caſe of any unfortunate accident.

The events of this embaſſy, which, on the whole, proved rather unpropitious, are well known, and are given to the public in two quarto volumes, written by Sir George *. When we conſider the ſhort time he took to compile them, added to the ſevere illneſs he actually laboured under, and with which he was attacked ſoon after his return, we cannot withhold our praiſe and approbation.

As a further proof of the eſteem in which the India Company held Sir George Staunton, they

* The Dutch Eaſt India Company have ſince undertaken a ſimilar embaſſy, and the very intereſting narrative of it by VAN BRAAM has lately made its appearance in the Engliſh language, in two volumes, octavo.

appointed

appointed his ſon *, who accompanied him in the former voyage, a writer to China; and had the father's health permitted, he would, probably, again have attended Lord Macartney in ſome honourable and confidential ſtation to his government at the Cape of Good Hope.

The memoirs of Sir George, if drawn up at full length, would exhibit many inſtances of a ſtrong and ardent mind, labouring occaſionally under difficulties, and ſurmounting dangers by patience, talents, and intrepidity. His conduct in the ſeizure of General Stuart, demonſtrates his reſolution and preſence of mind; and when treating with TIPPOO, he had the addreſs to induce M. Suffrein to ſuſpend hoſtilities, even before he had received advice from his court of the treaty of peace being ſigned between Great Britain and France.

MR. TAYLOR, THE PLATONIST.

THE ſubject of this article from his enthuſiaſtic and undiverted attachment to the religion and philoſophy of Plato, has been called, by different writers, "the modern Pletho †," "the apoſtle of Paganiſm ‡," and "the gentle prieſt of England §."

*This ſon, when only twelve years of age, embarked as page to the Ambaſſador, and was particularly noticed by the Emperor, on account of his various attainments.

† In the ſecond edition of the Curioſities of Literature.

‡ See Analytical Review of his Salluſt.

§ See Purſuits of Literature

This

This very ſingular man was born in London, in the year 1758, of obſcure but worthy parents; and though in his literary career he has accompliſhed Herculean labours, yet we are informed that his body has been, from his childhood, weak and diſeaſed; for, at the early period of ſix years of age, alarming ſymptoms of conſumption induced his family to remove him to Staffordſhire. On returning thence, in his ninth year, he was ſent to St. Paul's ſchool, to be educated for a diſſenting miniſter. Here, it ſeems, he ſoon gave indications of that contemplative turn of mind, and that averſion to merely verbal diſquiſitions, which have ſince become ſuch predominant features in his character. In proof of this, Mr. Ryder, one of the maſters of the ſchool, whenever a ſentence occurred remarkably moral or grave, in any claſſic which young Taylor was tranſlating to him, would always preface it by ſaying to the youthful Platoniſt: "Come, here is ſomething worthy the attention of a philoſopher *." The boy, indeed, was ſo diſguſted with the arbitrary manner in which the dead languages are taught in that, as well as in all other publick ſchools, that he entreated, and at length prevailed on his father to take him home, and abandon his deſign of educating him for the miniſtry. The pa-

* Thus too, at an early period, one of the firſt ſcholars of the age, diſcovered the *critical* turn of his mind: for when, on reading the Latin Teſtament, *at Jeſus* was printed inſtead of *ait Jeſus*, he ſhrewdly conjectured that *at* muſt be a verb, and be derived from *ao*.

rent

rent complied indeed, but with great reluctance, as he conſidered the office of a diſſenting miniſter, the moſt deſirable and the moſt enviable employment upon earth!

About this time Mr. T. happened to become acquainted with a Miſs Morton, the eldeſt daughter of a reſpectable coal-merchant in Doctor's Commons, for whom, although he was but twelve years of age, he conceived ſuch an attachment, as neither time nor diſtance could diſſolve or impair. This young lady (his preſent wife) had received an elegant education, and to an agreeable perſon, united uncommon modeſty, liberality, and artleſs manners. Mr. T. has often declared that he was then as deeply in love as the moſt famous hero of romance, and that to ſee and converſe with his adored fair one, formed the very ſummit of his wiſhes.

During his reſidence at home, while his father was yet undetermined as to his future ſituation in life, he happened to meet with Ward's "Young Mathematician's Guide," and was ſo ſtruck, in looking over the book, with the ſingularity of *negative quantities*, when multiplied together producing *poſitive* ones, that he immediately conceived a ſtrong deſire to become acquainted with mathematics. His father, however, who was deeply ſkilled in modern theology, but utterly unacquainted with this ſublime and moſt uſeful ſpecies of learning, was, it ſeems, averſe to his ſon's engaging in ſuch a courſe of ſtudy; notwithſtanding this, Mr. T.'s ardour ſoon enabled him to triumph over all oppoſition, by

devoting the hours of reſt to mathematical lucubrations, though to accompliſh this he was obliged to conceal a *tinder-box* under his pillow.

To his early acquaintance with thoſe leading branches of mathematical ſciences, arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, Mr. T. aſcribes his preſent unrivalled attachment to the philoſophy of Plato, and all the ſubſtantial felicity of his life.

About this time, viz. at the age of fifteen, Mr. T. was placed under an uncle-in-law at Sheerneſs, who happened to be one of the officers of that dock-yard. Here, at his leiſure hours, which were but few, he ſtill purſued the ſtudy of the ſpeculative part of mathematics; for he was early of opinion that thoſe ſciences were degraded when applied to practical affairs, without then knowing that the ſame ſentiment had been adopted by Pythagoras, Plato, and Archimedes. Here, likewiſe, he read Bolingbroke and Hume, and by ſtudying their works became a convert to the *ſceptical philoſophy*.

The behaviour, however, of his uncle-in-law was ſo very tyrannical, and his opportunities for the acquiſition were ſo very inadequate to his thirſt for knowledge, that after having been condemned to what he conſidered a ſtate of ſlavery during three years, he determined to break his fetters, and, as he could find no other refuge from oppreſſion, caſt himſelf at once into the arms of the church.

For this purpoſe he left Sheerneſs, and became, during the ſpace of two years, a pupil of one of the moſt celebrated diſſenting preachers. Under this

gentleman

gentleman he recovered his knowledge of the rudiments of the Latin and Greek tongues, but made no great advances in the attainment of theſe languages, as his mind, naturally propenſe to the ſtudy of things, required an uncommon ſtimulus, to make it ſtoop to an attention to words. This ſtimulus, the philoſophy of Plato and Ariſtotle could alone inſpire.

Mr. T. it ſeems, during this courſe of miniſterial education, renewed, with redoubled ardour, his acquaintance with Miſs M.; and, what indeed is ſingular in the extreme, was able to unite in amicable league, courtſhip and ſtudy. Hence he applied himſelf to Greek and Latin in the day, paid his addreſſes to his fair one in the evening, and had the courage to begin and read through the Latin quarto of Simſon's Conic Sections at night.

About the ſame period Mr. T. entered on the ſtudy of the modern philoſophy, and thinking himſelf qualified by his knowledge of the more abſtruſe parts of mathematics, to underſtand the ſyſtem of the univerſe as delivered in the *Principia* of Newton, he began to read that difficult work. We are informed, however, that he ſoon cloſed the book with diſguſt, exclaiming, "Newton is, indeed, a "great mathematician, but no philoſopher!" He was principally induced, it ſeems, to form this concluſion, by Sir Iſaac's aſſertion* "that every the "leaſt poſſible particle of matter or body, attracts "all bodies at all diſtances; that the being, what-

* Prop. 6. 7. & 8. l. 3.

" ever it is, that attracts or impels bodies towards " each other, proceeds from thoſe bodies to which " it belongs, and penetrates the whole ſubſtance of " the bodies on which it acts." It appeared to him, that from this aſſertion it muſt inevitably follow, that bodies act immediately or by themſelves, without the intervention of any other being, in a place where they are not, ſince attraction is the *immediate* action of attracting bodies; that they thus act in many places at the ſame time; that they penetrate each other; and that the leaſt particle of matter is extended as far as the limits of the univerſe: all which conſequences he conſidered as glaringly abſurd.

Thus far the ſtream of Mr. T's life may be ſaid to have run with an equal tenour, limpid, and unruffled, compared with its courſe in the ſucceeding period, in which it reſembled ſome dark river rolling with impetuous rage to the main.

The time now drew nigh, in which he was to leave his fair one for the univerſity. But as her father, in his abſence, intended to marry her to a man of large fortune, who had made her the offer of his hand, Miſs M. to ſecure herſelf from the *tyrannical* exertion of parental authority, generouſly conſented to unite herſelf to our philoſopher, on condition that nothing further than the marriage ceremony took place, till he had finiſhed his ſtudies at Aberdeen. This he immediately aſſented to, and the indiſſoluble knot was tied.

But when the fates are adverſe, how vain are the moſt prudent projects! how unfortunate the moſt generous

generous intentions! The low cunning of Mr. T.'s mother-in-law diſcovered the ſecret, ſoon after the union of the platonic pair; who, from a combination of eccleſiaſtical indignation with parental rage, were for a time expoſed to the inſult of undeſerved reproach, and the bitterneſs of real diſtreſs.

We find, however, that they exculpate their parents on this occaſion: Mr. T. entirely aſcribing his father's conduct to the malicious miſrepreſentation of his mother-in-law, and the anger of the church, and Mrs. T. to the unnatural and ſelfiſh conduct of ſome of her very near relations.

Such was the diſtreſſed ſituation of this young couple at this period, that we are informed they had no more than ſeven ſhillings a week to ſubſiſt on, for nearly a twelvemonth! This was owing to the baſe artifice of one of Mrs. T.'s relatives, who was left executor, and who prevailed on her father, then in a dying ſtate, to let him pay what he had left her as he pleaſed. Mr. T. endeavoured indeed to obtain employment as an uſher to a boarding-ſchool; but it was ſome time before he was able to effect this, as he was abandoned both by friends and relatives, and could not even borrow ten ſhillings and ſixpence, which it ſeems is the uſual fee of thoſe who procure ſuch ſituations.

At length he was ſeparated from his partner in affiction, and ſettled as uſher to a boarding-ſchool at Paddington. As his embarraſſments were ſuch, that he was unable to remove Mrs. T. from Camberwell, where ſhe then reſided, and the only time

he was permitted to ſee her was on Saturday afternoon, he could enjoy but little of her company. This little, however, was doubtleſs dear in proportion to its brevity, and the remembrance of paſt pain would, it may be preſumed, be loſt in the overflowings of reciprocal love.

Mrs. T.'s affection was, indeed, as we are informed, ſo great for her unfortunate huſband, that though then in a ſtate of pregnancy, ſhe almoſt deprived herſelf of the neceſſaries of life, that ſhe might purchaſe, out of her weekly pittance of ſeven ſhillings, a comfortable dinner for Mr. T. on Saturday; and many letters, it ſeems, during this painful ſeparation paſſed between them, replete with ſentiments expreſſive of the moſt tender and diſintereſted regard.

Mr. T. however, finding the ſituation of an uſher in itſelf extremely diſagreeable, and when attended with occaſional abſence from his partner in calamity, intolerable, determined, if poſſible, to obtain a leſs irkſome employment; and at length, by the unremitting exertions of his few friends, he procured a clerk's place in a reſpectable banking-houſe in the city. In this ſtation, however, he at firſt ſuffered greatly; for as his income was but fifty pounds a year, and this paid quarterly, and as he had not any money to ſpare, and could not from his embarraſſments quit his lodgings at Camberwell, he was unable to procure nutriment in the courſe of the day adequate to the great labours he endured. Hence, he was ſo exhauſted by the time he

had

had reached home in the evening, that he frequently fell ſenſeleſs on the floor.

We are informed that ſoon after he was ſettled in this new employment, he took a houſe at Walworth, by the aſſiſtance of a friend, who had been his ſchool-fellow; finding a reſidence at ſome ſmall diſtance from town neceſſary for his own health and that of Mrs. T. and much more favourable to the cultivation of his mind, of which he never ſeems to have loſt ſight, even amidſt the laſſitude of bodily weakneſs, the pain incident to uncommon fatigue, and th immediate preſſure of want.

About this time Mr. T.'s ſtudies, it ſeems, were chiefly confined to chemiſtry. Of all the authors in this branch of natural philoſophy, he was moſt attached to Becher, whoſe *Phyſica Subterranea* he read with great avidity, and became a complete convert to the doctrines of that illuſtrious man. He did not, however, neglect mathematics; but, in conſequence of having thought much on the quadrature of the circle, and believing he had diſcovered a method by which the rectification of it might be geometrically, though not arithmetically, obtained, he found means to publiſh a quarto pamphlet on that ſubject, which he entitled "A new Method of reaſoning in Geometry." The ſubſtance of this, as it did not then attract much attention, he has ſince given to the world in a note, in the firſt volume of his tranſlation of Proclus on Euclid.

Hitherto Mr. Taylor's ſtudies may be conſidered

as merely preparatory to thoſe ſpeculations which were to diſtinguiſh him in the literary world, at leaſt, they are conſidered in this light by the followers of Plato. It appears too, that, without knowing it, he was led to the myſtic diſcipline of that ſublime philoſopher, in the exact order preſcribed by his diſciples; for he began with ſtudying the works of Ariſtotle. He was induced, it ſeems, to engage in this courſe of ſtudy, by a paſſage in Sir Kenelm Digby's treatiſe "on Bodies and Man's "Soul," in which he ſays, "that the name of "Ariſtotle ought never to be mentioned by "ſcholars but with reverence, on account of his "incomparable worth." This eulogium from a man who was very far from being a Peripatetic, determined Mr. T. to enter on the ſtudy of Ariſtotle, as ſoon as he could procure any of his works, and had ſufficiently recovered his knowledge of Greek.

By a fortunate circumſtance, he ſoon met with a copy of that philoſopher's Phyſics, and before he had read a page, was ſo enamoured with his pregnant brevity, accuracy, and depth, that he reſolved to make the ſtudy of Ariſtotle's philoſophy the great buſineſs of his life. Such, indeed, was his avidity to accompliſh his deſign, that he was ſoon able to read that great maſter in the original; and has often been heard to ſay, that he learned Greek rather through the Greek philoſophy, than the Greek philoſophy through Greek.

However, as he was regularly engaged in the banking-

banking-houſe till at leaſt ſeven in the evening, and ſometimes till nine or ten, he was obliged to devote part of the night to ſtudy. Hence we are informed that, for ſeveral years, he ſeldom went to bed before two or three o'clock in the morning; and having, by contemplative habits, learned to diveſt himſelf during the time which he ſet apart for ſtudy of all concern about the common affairs of life, his attention was not diverted from Ariſtotle, either by the inconveniencies ariſing from his ſlender income, or ſolicitude about the buſineſs of the day.

By the aſſiſtance of Ariſtotle's Greek Interpreters, Mr. T. read the Phyſics, the books *de Anima*, *de Cælo*, Logic, Morals, and Metaphyſics, of that philoſopher: for, in his opinion, a man might as reaſonably expect to underſtand Archimedes, who had never read Euclid, as to comprehend either Ariſtotle or Plato, *who wrote obſcurely from deſign*, without the aſſiſtance of their Greek commentators. Hence he has often been heard to ſay, that the folly of neglecting the invaluable commentaries of the ancients, on thoſe philoſophers, is only to be equalled by the arrogance of ſuch as affect to deſpiſe them; ſince theſe interpreters poſſeſſed a traditional knowledge of the Greek philoſophy, had books to conſult on that ſubject which are now loſt, ſpent their whole lives in the ſtudy of it, were men of the deepeſt erudition, and muſt have been infinitely better qualified to explain the meaning of the text of Plato

and

and Ariſtotle, than any modern can pretend to be, becauſe the Greek was their native tongue. Mr. T. even carries his attachment to them ſo far as to aſſert, that from the oblivion in which they have been ſo long concealed, the philoſophy of Plato and Ariſtotle has not been accurately underſtood for upwards of a thouſand years.

Mr. T. therefore, who, by diveſting himſelf at night of thoſe habits of buſineſs which he had been contracting during the day, may be ſaid, in this reſpect, to have reſembled Penelope, made it a conſtant rule to digeſt what he had learned from Ariſtotle, while he was walking about with bills. This, when he was once maſter of his employment, he accompliſhed with great facility, without either committing miſtakes, or retarding his buſineſs. We are, indeed, informed from good authority, that while in that department, he was always diſtinguiſhed for accuracy and diſpatch.

Having in this manner applied himſelf to the ſtudy of Ariſtotle, and preſuming that he was now ſufficiently inſtructed in his philoſophy, he betook himſelf to the more ſublime ſpeculations of Plato; conſidering the Peripatetic diſcipline, when compared with that of Plato, as bearing the relation of the leſs to the greater myſteries: and in this light it ſeems, the two philoſophies were always conſidered by the beſt of the Platoniſts.

Mr. T. had not long entered on the ſtudy of Plato, before he met with the works of Plotinus, which he read, we are told, with an inſatiable avidity,

avidity, and the moſt rapturous delight, notwithſtanding the obſcurity of that author's diction, and the profundity of his conceptions. After having been well imbued in the doctrines of Plotinus, he ſtudied the ſix books of Proclus, on the Theology of Plato, a work which he found to be ſo uncommonly abſtruſe, that he has been heard to ſay, he did not thoroughly underſtand it till he had read it thrice over.

While he was engaged in the ſtudy of Proclus, who appears, upon the whole, to be, of all the Platoniſts, Mr. T.'s greateſt favourite, the celebrated Mrs. Woolſtoncroft, and her friend Miſs Blood, reſided with our Philoſopher for nearly three months. Mr. T. has been known to obſerve of Mrs. W. that during her ſtay with him, he thought her a very modeſt, ſenſible, and agreeable young lady; he added, that ſhe often heard him explain the doctrines of Plato, and was always pleaſed with his converſation on that ſubject; but confeſſed herſelf more inclined to an active, than a contemplative life. She frequently complimented him on the tranquillity of his manners, and uſed to call the little room which he made his ſtudy, "the abode of peace."

Mr. T. further remarked, that he afterwards called on her when ſhe lived in George-ſtreet, and that he has there drank wine with her out of a *tea cup*; Mrs. W. obſerving at the time, that ſhe did not give herſelf the trouble to think whether a glaſs was a neceſſary utenſil in a houſe. He has

alſo

alſo heard her ſay, " that one of the conditions ſhe " ſhould make previous to marriage, with the man " ſhe intended for her huſband, would be this— " that he ſhould never preſume to enter the room " in which ſhe was ſitting, till he had firſt knocked " at the door."

But to return from theſe eccentricities (which would not have been worthy of remark in a woman of leſs merit), to our Platoniſt. When Mr. T. had been nearly ſix years at the banking-houſe, he became diſguſted with the ſervility of the employment, and found his health ſo much impaired from the combination of ſevere bodily and mental efforts, added to an incurable diſorder in the bladder, which he had laboured under for a long time, that he determined to emancipate himſelf, if poſſible, from thraldom, and live by the exertion of his talents.

In order to effect this, he turned his attention to a ſubject, which he had often thought on in the days of his youth, viz. the poſſibility of making a *perpetual lamp*; being convinced, from the works of Licetus and Biſhop Wilkins, that ſuch lamps had been conſtructed by the ancients. He began, therefore, to make ſome experiments with phoſphorus, determining for a while to deſcend from mind to matter, and ſtoop in order to conquer. In the courſe of theſe experiments, he found that oil and ſalt boiled together, in a certain proportion, formed a fluid, which when phoſphorus was immerſed in it, both preſerved and increaſed its ſplendor.

In

In conſequence of this diſcovery, he exhibited at the Free Maſons' tavern a ſpecimen of phoſphoric light, ſufficient to read by at the diſtance of a yard; but the room in which this was ſhewn being ſmall, and very warm from the weather and the number of perſons that came to ſee it, the phoſphorus caught fire; and thus raiſed a prejudice againſt the invention, which could never afterwards be removed. This exhibition, however, procured Mr. T. ſuch friends as at length enabled him to emancipate himſelf from the banker's, and procure ſubſiſtence for himſelf and his family by literary toil *.

His firſt effort after this to emerge from obſcurity, was by compoſing twelve Lectures on the Platonic philoſophy, at the requeſt of Mr. Flaxman, the ſtatuary, who had been one of the auditors of Mr. T.'s Lecture on Light, and who very benevolently permitted him to read his diſſertations in the largeſt room of his houſe. He likewiſe procured for him ſome very reſpectable auditors, ſuch as Sir William Fordyce, the Hon. Mrs. Damer, Mrs. Coſway, Mr. Romney, &c. &c. and was the means of his becoming acquainted with Mr. Bennet Langton, well known for his great intimacy with the late Dr. Johnſon.

To this gentleman he read his Platonic Lectures, with which Mr. L. was ſo much pleaſed, as likewiſe

* This, we are informed, was principally through the means of Mr. Geo. Cumberland, the author of ſeveral ingenious works.

wiſe with the converſation, and uncommon application which our Platoniſt had given to ſtudy, that he at length mentioned him to the king, under the appellation of *a gigantic reader*, in hopes that the rays of royal attention might be ſo ſtrongly collected upon him, as to diſſipate the obſcurity in which he was then involved, and give additional vigour and ardour to his purſuits. Mr. L. it ſeems, mentioned him thrice to his majeſty, who was pleaſed to enquire after his family, and to expreſs his admiration of Mr. T.'s ardour and perſeverance in the purſuit of knowledge, in a ſituation ſo unfavourable to its acquiſition as that of a banker's clerk; but we do not find that this well-meant effort on the part of Mr. L. procured our Platoniſt anyp atronage from the throne.

About this time, Mr. T. became acquainted with Mr. William Meredith, of Harley-place, a circumſtance which he juſtly conſiders as forming one of the moſt important and fortunate events of his life. This gentleman, in addition to an ample fortune, poſſeſſes a moſt elegant and liberal mind; and though concerned in a very extenſive trade, has found leiſure for the ſtudy of the beſt Engliſh writers, and the beſt Engliſh verſions of the works of the ancients. He became deeply enamoured with the doctrines of Plato, from reading Mr. Sydenham's tranſlation of ſome of that philoſopher's dialogues; and this fondneſs for Plato, at length, occaſioned his attachment to Mr. Taylor.

Under the very noble and ſingular patronage of this

this gentleman, and his brother Mr. George Meredith, Mr. T. was enabled to preſent to the world his tranſlation of "The Hymns of Orpheus," the "Commentaries of Proclus on Euclid," and "The Fable of Cupid and Pſyche." The abilities of the latter of theſe gentlemen in the art he profeſſes *, and his knowledge of the Gothic architecture, which he has diſplayed in many beautiful drawings, have ſeldom been equalled, and will rarely be excelled. We likewiſe do not in the leaſt doubt, but that Mr. T. in the courſe of his ſtormy life, has experienced the liberality of both theſe gentlemen, upon occaſions with which we are entirely unacquainted.

While Mr. T. was engaged, under the patronage of Meſſrs. W. and G. M. in tranſlating and illuſtrating, at his leiſure hours, the Commentaries of Proclus, the Marquis de Valady took up his reſidence, for three or four months, at his houſe. As the public have already been much gratified with anecdotes † of this ſingular character, and eſpecially his adventures with Mr. T. we ſhall inſert, in addition to thoſe, the following particulars, which our Platoniſt has been heard to mention reſpecting him.

The Marquis, who profeſſed himſelf a rigid Pythagorean, under the notion, that a community of poſſeſſions in *every thing* was perfectly Pythago-

* Architecture.

† See "Biographical Anecdotes of the Founders of the French Republic," vol. I. ſecond edition.

ric,

ric, often converſed with Mr. T. on this ſubject, and once aſked him, if he did not think it conſiſtent with Pythagorean friendſhip, for the wife of the married to be ſhared with the unmarried friend? The *hint was broad*, but Mr. T. thought proper not to take it; on the contrary, he ſeverely reprobated the idea, as entirely foreign from that purity of conduct which forms the baſis of the Pythagoric and Platonic philoſophy.

He likewiſe once told Mr. T. that if he had a ſon, he ſhould make him, as ſoon as he had the proper uſe of his limbs, climb a high tree every morning for his breakfaſt; and would afterwards fling him into a river, in order to teach him to ſwim.

Dining once, at Mr. Bennet Langton's, with Mr. T., Mr. (now Dr.) Burney, and many other eminent ſcholars, he exclaimed to his friend, as ſoon as he left the houſe, "God keep me from "Critics!" This was occaſioned by a diſpute which aroſe, at that time, reſpecting the propriety of the epithet *ocean ſtream*, which Mr. T. had made uſe of, in his tranſlation of one of the Orphic hymns. Mr. T. urged, in his defence, that this epithet was employed by Homer, Heſiod, and Plato. To this Dr. B. replied, that Homer, indeed, had the expreſſion ὠκεανον ποταμον, *the ocean river*, but that a *river* was not a *ſtream*. Mr. T. then obſerved, that theſe words were conſidered as ſynonimous, by no leſs poets than Milton, and Mr. John Denham. By Milton, when ſpeaking of the leviathan (Paradiſe Loſt, book i.), he ſays,

"—or

" ——————————— or that ſea-beaſt
" Leviathan, whom God of all his works
" Created hugheſt, that ſwim th' *ocean ſtream.*"

And by Denham, in the firſt of his famous lines on the Thames:

" O could I flow like thee, and make thy *ſtream*
" My great exemplar, as it is my theme."

The genius of the Marquis ſeemed naturally inclined to war. Whenever he went to bed, he was heard to repeat, as he was going up ſtairs, thoſe animated lines of Neptune to the Greeks, from the Iliad by Pope:

——— " On daſtards, dead to fame,
" I waſte no anger, for they feel no ſhame!"

And if ever any one attempted to prove, that modern warriors were equally heroic with the ancient ones, he would indignantly exclaim, in the words of Minerva to Tydides:

" Such Tydeus was, and ſuch his martial fire;
" Gods! how the ſon degenerates from the ſire!"

We find that Mr. T. ſoon after the Marquis left him, came into the poſſeſſion of ſix or ſeven hundred pounds, in conſequence of the death of a relation of his wife. A conſiderable part of this, it ſeems, was ſpent by him, in relieving the neceſſities of his own relations; but he was not ſufficiently a man of the world, to know how to diſpoſe of the remaining part of it to his own advantage. About

five or six years after this, he again seems to have laboured under the pressure of want; to relieve which, with incredible diligence he translated and illustrated, with copious introductions and some notes, five of the most abstruse of Plato's Dialogues, in the short space of about seven months; the copy-right of which he sold for no more than forty pounds!

After this, he wrote his "Dissertation on the Eleusinian and Bacchic Mysteries," in consequence of some considerable information on that subject, which he had obtained from the perusal of three Greek manuscripts, in the British Museum. One of these, it seems, is the Commentary of Proclus on the Parmenides of Plato, and is a folio volume, consisting of upwards of five hundred pages. This, with the other two, which are, likewise, folio volumes, of no inconsiderable size, Mr. T. had the courage to copy, for his own private use.

Shortly after this, he translated the Platonic Sallust "On the Gods and the World;" the "Pythagoric Sentences of Demophilus;" and five Hymns of Proclus; likewise two Orations of the Emperor Julian; and five Books of Plotinus: all which, we are informed, he sold for no more than twenty pounds!

But the most laborious of all his undertakings, and for which he seems to have received less, in proportion, than for any of his other publications, was his translation of Pausanias. When this task

was

was firſt propoſed to Mr T. by the bookſeller; Mr. Samuel Patterſon, well known to the literary world, by ſeveral very ingenious publications, happening to be preſent, obſerved, "that it was enough to break a man's heart:" "O," replied the bookſeller, "nothing will break the heart of Mr. T.!" This Herculean labour our Platoniſt accompliſhed, in the ſpace of ten months, though the notes are of ſuch an extent, and ſo full of uncommonly abſtruſe learning, that the compoſition of them might be ſuppoſed to have taken up a much longer time. For that arduous work, we bluſh to ſay, Mr. T. received no more than ſixty pounds; and are grieved to add, that his health was greatly injured, by his exceſſive application on that occaſion. We are, indeed, informed, that the debility of his body became ſo extreme, after this, that, at times, he was rendered incapable of any exertion; and what is ſingular, he has, ever ſince, been deprived of the uſe of his fore-finger in writing.

Our Platoniſt, however, in a ſhort time, exhibited an indubitable proof, that he poſſeſſes an ardour which neither toil can abate, embarraſſments impede, nor even debility extinguiſh; and which, like gunpowder ſet on fire, ſeems to riſe with renewed vigour, in proportion as it has been compreſſed. Notwithſtanding the extreme laſſitude of his whole bodily frame, and the difficulty with which he was able to write, he engaged, under the patronage of an anonymous gentleman of

fortune, to tranſlate all thoſe dialogues of Plato, which have not been clothed in our national dreſs by Mr. Sydenham, and others, together with his epiſtles; in order that by reviſing what has been already done, he might give the whole of Plato to the world, in an Engliſh garb. This great undertaking, we underſtand, he accompliſhed in the ſpace of about two years; and the work now only waits for a liberal ſubſcription, to be made public.

Under the patronage, too, of the ſame gentleman, he has tranſlated the greater part of Ariſtotle's Nichomachean Ethics; and at preſent we hear Meſſrs. W. and G. Meredith have engaged him to give an Engliſh verſion of Ariſtotle's Metaphyſics, of which he has already nearly accompliſhed the three firſt books.

That reſpectable patriot, Mr. Thomas Brand Hollis, has been, for many years, very much attached to our Platoniſt; he frequently invites him to his table; and he has always ſhewn himſelf extremely active in promoting his welfare.

We ſhall only add, that Mr. T. is at preſent aſſiſtant ſecretary to the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce; a ſituation which he obtained by a very conſiderable majority of votes, through the uncommon exertions of his friends; and that, prior to this, ſome of them had procured him a place in one of the public offices; to the fatigues of which, finding his ſtrength by no means adequate, and the employment appearing to him extremely ſervile, he

relinquiſhed

relinquiſhed it, almoſt immediately after his nomination, and compoſed the following lines on the occaſion:

To ev'ry power that reigns on high,
Swifter than light my thanks ſhall fly,
That, from the B***'s dark dungeons free,
I once more hail ſweet liberty!
For ſure, I ween, fate ne'er me doom'd
To be 'midſt ſordid cares entomb'd,
And vilely waſte in groveling toil,
The mid-day blaze and midnight oil,
To ſome poor darkling deſk confin'd;
While the wing'd energies of mind
Oppreſs'd, and cruſh'd, and vanquiſh'd lie,
And loſe, at length, the power to fly.
A doom like this be his alone,
To whom truth's charms were never known;
Who many ſleepleſs nights has ſpent,
In ſchemes full fraught with *cent. per cent.*
The ſlave of av'rice, child of care,
And loſt to all that's good and fair.

GENERAL ROBERT MELVILLE.

THIS gentleman is a native of North Britain, poſſeſſed of a landed property in Fifeſhire, and deſcended from a branch of an ancient and noble family of the ſame ſurname; the chief of which is the Earl of Leven and Melville. The anceſtor of that noble family is held to be the firſt Norman who came into Scotland and ſettled there; he was a perſon of diſtinction in his native country, named

de Malville, or *de Melville*, and accompanied William the Conqueror into England, but having ſoon met with ſome cauſe of diſguſt, he ſecretly withdrew, before the end of 1066, to the Court of King Malcolm Canmore, who received him very courteouſly; ſoon after we find him poſſeſſed of lands in Midlothian, called the Barony of Melville; and, it is ſaid, there ſtill remain in Normandy very ancient families of *nobleſſe* of the de Melvilles, and ſince of Melville Caſtle. Both the general's parents having died when he was very young, the ſuperintendence of his education devolved upon his guardians, who were very careful in their attention to that duty. The firſt part of it was at a reputable ſchool at Leven, in Fifeſhire, where it was ſaid that he was early remarkable for a lively and quick apprehenſion, with a moſt retentive and capacious memory, ſo that the progreſs he made in learning was very rapid; and afterwards, when a ſtudent in the univerſity of Edinburgh, he was no leſs ſucceſsful in his ſtudies. His fortune being but moderate, it was the wiſh of his guardians that he ſhould embrace one of the learned profeſſions in aid of it; but his own genius ſtrongly prompting him to a military life, and having always taken great delight in reading warlike exploits, theſe circumſtances joined with the favourable occaſion of a war on the continent, he could not reſiſt the temptation: to give, however, the leſs offence to his guardians, he withdrew without conſulting them; and having made a ſtolen march to London,

with

with the knowledge only of one confident in Scotland, near the end of 1743, he very ſoon after wrote from the capital ſuch an explanatory letter to his guardians as was, in all points, ſatisfactory to them. They, accordingly, furniſhed him with ſufficient ſums, or credit, to carry him by Holland to the Netherlands, and to ſupport him there as a volunteer in the Britiſh army, according to his own deſire, until a commiſſion ſhould be procured or purchaſed for him. Thus authoriſed and equipped, young Mr. Melville paſſed over into Holland, and having made the previous tour of it, he proceeded next by Antwerp and Mechlin to Bruſſels, early in 1744, where, or in Ghent, then garriſoned with Britiſh troops, he remained until the month of March. His guardians having, by this time, obtained for him, by purchaſe, an Enſign's commiſſion in the twenty-fifth regiment, then commanded by the Earl of Rothes, and ſerving in the allied army, he joined it in the ſpring, at the camp of Anderleck, near Bruſſels. He ſerved, during that campaign, under Field Marſhal Wade; and in all the campaigns following, under his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Cumberland, in the Low Countries, until the peace of 1748, excepting the latter part of the year 1745, and a great part of 1746, when the twenty-fifth regiment having been, with other Britiſh troops, recalled to Britain, on account of the rebellion in the North, it ſerved under the Duke firſt in England, and afterwards in Scotland, until autumn, 1746. The twenty-fifth being, at that

time, one of the three regiments ſent to rejoin the allied army on the Continent, and landing at Williamſtadt, proceeded with the other corps to Mæſtricht, whence, by a forced march during the night, and croſſing the Maeſe at Viſet, they joined the army ſo early as to ſhare in the battle of Raucoux, which happened in October.

Enſign Melville, who had carried the colours in two of the battles, had the honour of being ſent, after that of Lafeldt, by his commanding officer to the Duke of Cumberland, with the colours of the French regiment of Monaco, taken by the twenty-fifth regiment, and was immediately after promoted to a lieutenantcy. The twenty-fifth regiment, after the battle of Fontenoy, having been thrown into the fortified town of Aeth, to reinforce its ſmall garriſon, which conſiſted before of only one Auſtrian and one Dutch battalion, was afterwards, on the retreat of the Duke of Cumberland, with the allied armies, to the camp of Villvorde, near Bruſſels, beſieged by a large body of the French army, detached by the Marſhal de Saxe, under Lieutenant-general Count de Clermont Galerunde. On this occaſion, the twenty-fifth regiment merited not only the approbation of the Imperial Governor Count de Wurmbrand; but, after having marched out with the honours of war, and rejoined the allied army, received the public thanks of his Royal Highneſs the Duke. In this ſiege, Enſign Melville had a very narrow eſcape, for, in the beginning of it, when the enemy

threw

threw their ſhells only at the works, a ſingle one, which, by the accident of an overcharged mortar, was thrown into the town, fell through his field bed, in the middle of the night, when he was on duty in an outwork.

The twenty-fifth regiment, which had only reached Edinburgh on the day of the unfortunate battle at Falkirk, under Lieutenant-general Hawley, had a ſhare in the victory of Culloden, under the Duke of Cumberland. A detachment of it, which had been made ſome time before, under the command of Lieutenant Melville, formed part of the garriſon of Blair Caſtle, a houſe of the Duke of Athol, commanded by Lieutenant-colonel Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart. which, although cloſely inveſted and beſieged, during fourteen days, by the rebels under Lieutenant-general Lord George Murray, who frequently fired red-hot ſhot from two cannon, made ſuch an obſtinate reſiſtance, as fruſtrated the enterprize and forced them to retire. During the whole of this time, Lieutenant Melville, with a ſmall guard, had the ſingular good fortune to maintain a flooring in an unfiniſhed part of the houſe, ſo very nearly beſet by the enemy, as to be within hearing of almoſt every word they ſaid, and receiving many ſtones thrown up by them.

Towards the end of 1748, when peace was concluded, the Britiſh troops in the Low Countries were recalled; the twenty-fifth regiment, which was deſtined for Ireland, had a remarkably tedious

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and adverſe paſſage from Williamſtadt to Kinſale, in Ireland, of more than five months duration, in conſequence of ſeveral winter ſtorms, and only arrived in the laſt of the three tranſports in which they had embarked. The firſt of theſe having ſuffered great damage, and being ſhipwrecked on the coaſt of Normandy, the regiment, with part of the forty-ſecond regiment, &c. after having been moſt humanely treated by the people of the country, and admitted into the city of Caen, and to mount guard in their own quarters there, an indulgence not even granted to French regiments who were not of the garriſon, marched, after a ſtay of near ſix weeks, by Bayeux, and from it through ſeveral other places of Normandy to Cherbourg, where another Engliſh tranſport being ready to receive the troops, they ſpeedily embarked, and were landed at Cowes, in the Iſle of Wight.

Here they remained for ſeveral weeks, during which time, as well as in France, Lieutenant Melville had conſtantly acted as Quarter-maſter, until a third tranſport came to Cowes, when they re-embarked for Ireland: having, however, in a few days after, been overtaken in a moſt violent ſtorm, between the Land's-end and Scilly Iſlands, they got back with much difficulty into the harbour of Falmouth, where, the ſhip requiring repairs, they were again landed, and remained for ſeveral weeks before they re-embarked, and proceeded to Kinſale.

From

From this period, in 1749, to the ſummer of 1755, when appearances indicated an approaching war with France, the twenty-fifth, with other regiments, were ordered to Britain, and to complete themſelves from their former low eſtabliſhment. This regiment had annually, according to the ſucceſſion of quarters eſtabliſhed in Ireland, moved from the ſouth to the north in that kingdom, from which its deſtination had been to Glaſgow. During the ſix preceding years, Captain Melville, promoted to that rank in Auguſt, 1751, had only been twice abſent from Ireland; then he was employed on the recruiting ſervice in North Britain.

Having been again, when at Glaſgow, prevailed on by his Colonel, Major-general the Earl of Home, to undertake, though not his tour of duty, the recruiting ſervice for the regiment, then very low in number, he was ſo fortunate, by his exertions on a new and unexceptionable plan, as ſoon to raiſe about one hundred and fifty men, forty more than any other recruiting officer had done within the ſame period. Having been very ſtrongly recommended by General Bland, then Commander-in-chief in Scotland, to Mr. Fox, Secretary at War, as alſo having accompanied in November, 1755, the Earl of Home to London, he was ſoon after appointed *Aid-de-camp* to Major-general the Earl of Panmure; and in the ſpring of 1756 he was promoted to be Major of the thirty-eighth regiment at Antigua, in the Leeward Iſlands, where it had been ſtationed ſince its removal from the

garriſon

garriſon of Gibraltar, at the beginning of this century.

This iſland had often been made a receptacle of offenders from regiments at home; and the military force here had, accordingly, been long compoſed of the moſt diſorderly ſoldiers; the ſituation was, from theſe cauſes, much expoſed to drunkenneſs, and other exceſſes, inſomuch, that notwithſtanding the laudable exertions to reform them by ſome preceding field officers who had commanded, Major Melville, when he became the only field officer preſent, as well as commander of the regiment, in the ſummer of 1768, found his moſt zealous and perſevering efforts (with the hearty concurrence of moſt of the officers) abſolutely indiſpenſable for putting the regiment into the ſtate of ſpirit and diſcipline requiſite for actual ſervice, with effect and reputation.

An armament, under General Hopſon, having arrived at Barbadoes, early in December, 1758, to attack the French iſlands; and an expreſs having been ſent, by that general, to Governor Thomas, of the Leeward Iſlands, at Antigua, to detach two hundred men from the thirty-eighth regiment to join in the attack of Martinico, he was pleaſed, on the major's earneſt application, to authoriſe him, though commanding officer, to proceed with a detachment, and to leave the command of the regiment to the eldeſt captain. The major, with the ſoldiers, in a tranſport, and eſcorted by a frigate, had a quick paſſage to Martinico, but

found

found that the attack on that iſland had failed, and that the troops were re-embarked to proceed againſt Guadaloupe, eſcorted by a ſquadron under Commodore More. During the ſiege, on the ſide of Baſterre and Fort St. Charles, Major Melville commanded the light infantry, at the advanced poſts, including the detachment of the thirty-eighth regiment, with ſucceſs, in all ſkirmiſhes or ſmall actions; but in one of them, being an attack after a night's march, and ſurpriſe of a poſt very near to the enemy's camp, he had the misfortune to be blown up, with great danger of his life; and although he ſoon recovered, yet the accident was attended with ſuch injury to his ſight, that it has been thought to be the cauſe of his total loſs of it ſince.

The attack, after General Hopſon's death, having been transferred to the iſland of Grandterre, the Major was poſted in an armed ſhip, with a detachment of the thirty-eighth regiment, at the mouth of the river Salée, to cut off the enemy's communication between the two iſlands; which he effectually did, until Lieutenant-colonel Debriſey, who had been left to defend the fort at Baſterre, ſuddenly periſhed by an exploſion of gunpowder, which deſtroyed ſome other officers and men, with great damage to a principal baſtion. Major Melville was immediately diſpatched, by General Barrington, to ſucceed him in the defence of that place (Fort-Royal), which he held until the reduction of the iſland; when, beſides being

continued

continued governor of Fort-Royal, he was made Lieutenant-governor of Gaudaloupe and its dependencies, with the Lieutenant-colonelcy of the ſixty-third regiment.

After the re-embarkation of the army under General Barrington for Britain, Lieutenant-governor Melville remained in the fort as ſecond in command, under Brigadier-general Crump, who had been appointed to the government, until early in 1760, when, on the ſudden death of that officer, the government, with the chief command of the troops, devolved on Governor Melville. Soon after this, the Governor was graciouſly promoted, by his Majeſty, to the rank of Colonel; and although, for reaſons reſpecting his health and private affairs in Britain, he had wiſhed to return thither, as ſoon as a new governor-in-chief ſhould arrive, yet having, during his chief command, by the moſt zealous and diſintereſted exertions, gained very great popularity among the French, and thereby paved the way for the eaſier conqueſt of the other French iſlands, he choſe to remain in the proſpect of that event, which afterwards happened to his wiſhes. He, therefore, did not return home after the arrival of Governor Dalrymple, in the beginning of 1761, but remaining until the arrival of Brigadier-general Lord Rollo, in the bay of Baſſeterre Town, with a detachment of Britiſh troops, from North-America, he joined his lordſhip, as ſecond-in-command, with part of the garriſon of Fort-Royal, when the iſland of Dominica was ſurpriſed and taken, with

very

very little loſs. Colonel Melville had the command of the grenadiers, who immediately ſurpriſed and took the hill, and ſmall battery on it, commanding Roſeau.

At the beginning of next year (1762), he went to ſerve under General Monkton, at the reduction of Martinico, where he was ſoon after taken ſo ill with the diſeaſe of the country, as to be unable to act, until the 24th of January, when he was preſent at the ſucceſsful attack made againſt the hill and battery of Tortenſon, and, very ſoon after, the ſurrender of Fort-Royal, and had the ſatisfaction to ſee it followed by that of the whole iſland, in conſequence of *a general defection in the inhabitants*, as he had expected. This was followed by the ſpeedy ſubmiſſion of St. Lucia, St. Vincent, the Grenadines, Grenada, and Tobago.

Colonel Melville having returned, ſoon after, to England, had the ſatisfaction to find his military ſervices, and general conduct, highly approved; ſo that, without any ſolicitation whatever, he was recommended by the Earl of Egremont, then ſecretary of ſtate for the colonies, to his Majeſty, for the chief government of Grenada, and the other ceded iſlands. Accordingly Colonel Melville, with the rank of Brigadier-general in America, was, in 1763, appointed, by a royal commiſſion under the great ſeal, on the 9th of April, 1764, to be Captain-general and Governor-in-chief, &c. of Grenada, and all the other ceded iſlands.

Towards the end of October, he arrived at Barbadoes

badoes with two large ſtore-ſhips, carrying many articles neceſſary for firſt ſettlements in the Weſt-Indies. Tobago was then without ſettlers, and almoſt totally covered with wood ; hither Governor Melville firſt repaired with the ſtore-ſhips and ſome adventurers from Barbadoes. During a ſhort ſtay there, he exerted himſelf in preparatory meaſures for the future colonization of the iſland. He alſo loſt no time in beginning, and carrying into effect, his Majeſty's inſtructions for eſtabliſhing the Britiſh government throughout the iſlands under his juriſdiction, followed by legiſlatures ſimilar to thoſe in the neighbouring Britiſh Colonies.

And although during his government (which was of about ſeven years' continuance, with the exception of his abſence while at ſea, and during his reſidence at London, from 1768 to February, 1770, on important public ſervice, reſpecting the future ſecurity and proſperity of his government) he had to ſurmount numberleſs difficulties of various kinds; yet did the governor give very general ſatisfaction. Some partial complaints, by a few angry and diſappointed perſons, brought againſt him while in London, in January, 1770, and directed, in fact, rather againſt the King's Council of Grenada than himſelf, had been found ſo frivolous and groundleſs, as to be wholly and deſervedly ſcouted.—As to any charges of peculation, the moſt common evils complained of in public magiſtracy, theſe were never even alleged againſt this governor; but, on the contrary, it was known to all, that with great opportunities

of

of amaſſing wealth, he practiſed an honeſt abſtinence, and left his government much poorer than many of the adventurers in it, who had realiſed their acquiſitions without any property, and on mere credit and ſpeculation. It ſhould alſo be mentioned, to his honour, that Governor Melville, who was made a Major-general in 1766, diſcharged all the military duties of that office throughout the ceded iſlands, without any allowance or charge whatever to the public on that account; and, ſince his retirement, adhering to his favourite maxim of "taking nothing for doing nothing," he has never wiſhed, much leſs ſolicited, for any ſalary, penſion, or emoluments, although his latter invalidities and blindneſs would not have been a bar to claims ſo commonly allowed. His Majeſty, however, has been graciouſly pleaſed to direct that his military rank ſhould be always carried on. In conſequence of which, his laſt promotion to be a General, was the firſt in order of thoſe made on the 12th of October, 1793.

From the principles and conduct of this veteran general, both in his profeſſional capacities, civil and military, and alſo in private life, many and ſtricking proofs of active and inventive genius, of benevolence, patriotiſm, and diſintereſtedneſs, might be here adduced, illuſtrating his general character, and reflecting the greateſt honour his on hsad and heart, would the plan and limits of this work permit us to give a greater extent to the article.

The General is a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies of London and Edinburgh; by

the univerſity of which laſt, his *alma mater*, he has been honoured with the degree of LL.D. He is likewiſe an honorary member of the Board of Agriculture, and a member of the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce. He is alſo a zealous promoter of, and benefactor to, many of the moſt uſeful public charities in this metropolis.

BEILBY PORTEUS, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

RELIGION, in looking round among her moſt brilliant ornaments, and moſt powerful advocates during the preſent age, can hardly fix upon a more favourite object, than the very amiable and truly primitive prelate, who now claims our notice. Far be it from us to depreciate the merits of any divine, or to exalt the character of one member of the epiſcopacy at the expence of another. Still we are confident, that all ranks and parties will agree with us, that a more beautiful picture of genuine chriſtian ſimplicity, united with paſtoral dignity, was never exhibited to public obſervation, than in the ſubject of this biographical ſketch.

Dr. Beilby Porteus is a native of Yorkſhire, and was born about 1731. His father was a reputable tradeſman, who, after giving his ſon a good education, at the grammar ſchool of Rippon, under the Rev. Mr. Hyde, ſent him to Cambridge, where he was entered of Chriſt's College. In this reſpectable ſociety he diſtinguiſhed himſelf by an aſſiduous application to his ſtudies, directing them in an eſpecial

pecial manner to that ſacred function for which he had an early predilection, and in which he has ſince ſo eminently ſhone.

He took his degree of B. A. in 1752, and, in the courſe of the ſame year, gained one of the medals given for the beſt claſſical eſſay by the Duke of Newcaſtle, then Chancellor of the Univerſity. The other ſucceſsful candidate was the preſent baron Maſſeres.

March 14, 1754, he was appointed one of the Eſquire Beadles of the Univerſity, which office he reſigned July 3, 1755, and, in the ſame year, took his degree of Maſter of Arts. Nearly about this period he was elected Fellow of his College, and was made one of the preachers at Whitehall chapel. In 1759, he obtained the Seatonian prize, for the beſt compoſition on DEATH. This poem evinces great poetical powers, and as it is the only piece of his, in this line, that has ever appeared in public, except a few verſes on the demiſe of the late king, we truſt that the reader will be pleaſed with an extract from it in this place. The part we ſelect is the poet's concluding prayer:

" At thy good time,
" Let death approach; I reck not—let him but come
" In genuine form, not with thy vengeance arm'd,
" Too much for man to bear. O rather lend
" Thy kindly aid, to mitigate his ſtroke.
" And at that hour, when all aghaſt I ſtand
" (A trembling candidate for thy compaſſion)
" On this world's brink, and look into the next;
" When my ſoul, ſtarting from the dark unknown,
" Caſts back a wiſhful look, and fondly clings

" To her frail prop, unwilling to be wrench'd
" From this fair ſcene, from all her 'cuſtom'd joys,
" And all the lovely relatives of life,
" Then ſhed thy comforts o'er me; then put on
" The gentleſt of thy looks.—Let no dark crimes,
" In all their hideous forms then ſtarting up,
" Plant themſelves round my couch in grim array,
" And ſtab my bleeding heart with two-edg'd torture—
" Senſe of paſt guilt, and dread of future woe.
" Far be the ghaſtly crew! And in their ſtead
" Let cheerful memory, from her pureſt cells,
" Lead forth a goodly train of virtues fair,
" Cheriſh'd in earlieſt youth, now paying back,
" With tenfold uſury, the pious care,
" And pouring o'er my wounds the heav'nly balm
" Of conſcious innocence. But chiefly Thou,
" Whom ſoft-ey'd Pity once led down from heav'n
" To bleed for man, to teach him how to live,
" And, oh! ſtill harder leſſon! how to die;
" Diſdain not Thou to ſmooth the reſtleſs bed
" Of ſickneſs and of pain. Forgive the tear
" That feeble nature drops, calm all her fears,
" Wake all her hopes, and animate her faith;
" Till my rapt ſoul, anticipating heaven,
" Burſts from the thraldom of incumb'ring clay,
" And, on the wings of ecſtacy upborne,
" Springs into liberty, and light, and life!

In 1760, appeared a ſingular piece of infidelity under the title of "The Hiſtory of the Man after God's own Heart," written by Peter Annet, with a view of expoſing the ſacred hiſtory to contempt, on account of the defects in the character of David. Though this performance was exceedingly deficient in point of argument, it was but too well calculated to do conſiderable miſchief from its ſophiſtry, boldneſs,

boldneſs, and vivacity. On this account, ſeveral able writers undertook to vindicate the ſcriptures, and, among the reſt, our ingenious divine publiſhed a ſermon, preached Nov. 29, 1761, before the Univerſity of Cambridge, which he entitled "The Character of David, King of Iſrael, impartially ſtated."

This diſcourſe, it is ſuppoſed, firſt recommended him to the patronage of Dr. Secker, then Archbiſhop of Canterbury, who appointed him, about that time, one of his domeſtick chaplains, and in 1762 preſented him to the rectory of Witterſham, in Kent.

In 1762, the excellent prelate juſt mentioned, gave him the rectory of Bucking, in the ſame county, and alſo a prebendal ſtall in the cathedral church of Peterborough.

May 13, 1765, Mr. Porteus was married by the Archbiſhop to Miſs Hodgſon, of Parliament-ſtreet, and, in the courſe of the ſame year, he obtained the valuable living of Hunton. He took the degree of doctor of divinity, July 7, 1767, and in the month following the Archbiſhop gave him the rectory of Lambeth, vacant by the death of Dr. Denne, with which he was allowed to hold the rectory of Hunton.

In 1768, Archbiſhop Secker died, and by his will confided to his chaplains, Drs. Porteus and Stinton, the reviſion and publication of his Lectures on the Church Cathechiſm, Sermons &c. This truſt was moſt faithfully executed; and to the ſermons, which

were publiſhed in 1770, was prefixed an elegant memoir, reſpecting the venerable author, written ſolely by Dr. Porteus; this was reprinted in a ſeparate form in 1798, with additions, and it is ſurely ſufficient praiſe to obſerve, that this piece of biography obtained the approbation of Dr. Johnſon.

In 1776, our divine became maſter of St. Croſs, an option of Archbiſhop Secker; and in January following he was deſervedly raiſed to the epiſcopal bench, on the tranſlation of Dr. Markham from the ſee of Cheſter to the Archbiſhoprick of York. This promotion, it is generally underſtood, was owing to the immediate ſolicitation of the Queen, to whom Dr. Porteus had been particularly acceptable as a private chaplain, while ſhe was indiſpoſed. In this ſtation he conducted himſelf with primitive zeal, and blended with true epiſcopal dignity all the ſimplicity and earneſtneſs of a chriſtian miniſter.

In 1776, obſerving the negligence with which that awful day appropriated by the church, in early ages, to the commemoration of the ſufferings and death of the Redeemer was treated, eſpecially in the motropolis, his lordſhip printed "An earneſt "Exhortation to the religious Obſervance of Good "Friday, in a Letter to the Inhabitants of Lam-"beth." This addreſs, which excited conſiderable notice, was thought by ſome to breathe too much of the Puritanical ſpirit of the laſt century; and the ingenious Mr. Robert Robinſon, of Cambridge, publiſhed a pamphlet in reply to it, under the title of the "Hiſtory and Myſtery of Good Friday."

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The Biſhop, however, had the ſatisfaction to ſee, that his exhortation was attended with the deſired effects. The Society for promoting Chriſtian Knowledge ſeconded his laudable endeavours, by cauſing his pamphlet to be printed in a cheap form, and circulated in great abundance; by which means, numbers were induced to pay a proper reſpect to this ſolemn anniverſary; ſo that from that time, it has uſually been kept in the metropolis, and its vicinity, with great ſtrictneſs.

In 1781, he publiſhed a work, entitled, "A "brief Confutation of the Errors of the Church "of Rome," which was extracted from Archbiſhop Secker's five Leſſons againſt Popery, and deſigned for general diſtribution.

In 1783, the Biſhop of Cheſter preached before the Society for Propagating the Goſpel in Foreign Parts; on which occaſion he pleaded in a forcible and pathetic manner, the cauſe of the African ſlaves, in our Weſt-Indian ſettlements. This ſermon attracted conſiderable notice; and led the way to great exertions on behalf of thoſe unfortunate victims of avarice and oppreſſion. The ſame year he publiſhed a volume of Sermons, on ſeveral ſubjects, ſome of which had been printed before, ſeperately; theſe deſervedly rank high, as models of the kind. He publiſhed an additional volume, in 1754.

In 1787, on the death of Biſhop Lowth, Dr. Porteus was tranſlated to the ſee of London, a cir-

cumſtance which gave univerſal ſatisfaction to every friend of religion, whether in or out of the eſtabliſhment.

In 1792, his lordſhip was the means of founding a ſociety for the converſion of the negro ſlaves, in the Weſt-Indies, which we have the ſatisfaction to find has been very ſucceſsful. His exertions in the cauſe of Chriſtianity have been unremitted, and conducted upon the moſt liberal principles. The breath of cenſure has not ventured to aſſail his name, even with the ſuſpicion of reproach. Men of all parties have concurred in praiſing his candour, faithfulneſs, moderation, and liberality of mind.

In order to counteract the growing ſpirit of infidelity, his lordſhip commenced, during laſt Lent, a ſeries of Lectures on the Truth of the Goſpel Hiſtory, and the Divinity of Chriſt's Miſſion, which he preached in St. James's church, Weſtminſter. Theſe were delivered every Friday, before crowded and admiring audiences, compoſed of perſons of all perſuaſions. His warm and impreſſive manner, plain but forcible language, clear and convincing arguments, aided by a moſt captivating eloquence, not only drew from the multitudes who heard him the unanimous voice of applauſe, but, it is to be hoped, produced a more ſubſtantial good, in bringing conviction home to many minds.

The Biſhop is, we believe, a more frequent preacher than the reſt of his brethren; for he is not

not only ready to aſſiſt public charities, by his elocution, but during his ſummer reſidence in the country, he often aſcends the pulpit, to explain the principles, and enforce the precepts, of our ſublime religion.

We cannot cloſe this imperfect ſketch of ſo amiable a character, without mentioning one part of his conduct, which entitles him to additional praiſe: the point we allude to, is the moderate ſpirit he has manifeſted in the agitation of political queſtions. Though he has uniformly voted with his Majeſty's miniſters, he has not made himſelf an active partizan, by throwing fuel upon the unhappy fire which diſtracts the public mind. On the contrary, he has ſteered that pacific courſe, which becomes an ambaſſador of the Prince of Peace; the apoſtle of him, who ſo emphatically ſaid, that "he was not the king of this world." It would add not a little to the dignified independence of our eſtabliſhment, if all his brethren were to follow his example.

Biſhop Porteus is not only eminent for his piety, but alſo for his literary accompliſhments, which rank him among the moſt elegant ſcholars of the age. His ſtyle is pure, and claſſically correct; at the ſame time that it is remarkably plain, and free from ornament.

Beſides the works already mentioned, he is the author of ſeveral Charges and ſmall Tracts, on religious ſubjects.

W.

JOSIAH TUCKER, D.D.

DEAN OF GLOUCESTER.

THIS venerable divine, ſo long, and ſo juſtly celebrated for his commercial ſagacity, was born at Laugharn, in Caermarthenſhire, in the year 1712. His father was a farmer, and having a ſmall eſtate left him, at or near Aberyſtwith, in Cardiganſhire, he removed thither; and perceiving that his ſon had a turn for learning, he ſent him to Ruthin ſchool, in Denbighſhire, where he made ſo reſpectable a progreſs in the claſſics, that he obtained an exhibition at Jeſus College, Oxford.

The journey from his native place to the univerſity was long, and at that period very tedious, on account of the badneſs of the roads. Our young ſtudent for ſome time travelled on foot. At laſt, old Mr. Tucker, feeling for his ſon's reputation, as well as for his eaſe, gave him his own horſe, that he might viſit Oxford more reputably.

Upon his return, young Joſiah, with true filial affection, conſidered that it was better for him to walk to Oxford, than, as had been the caſe, owing to this new regulation, for his father to repair on foot to the neighbouring markets and fairs. The horſe was returned; and our ſtudent, for the remainder of the time he continued at the univerſity, actually trudged backwards and forwards, with his baggage at his back!

At

At the age of twenty-three, he entered into holy orders, and ſerved a curacy for ſome time, in Glouceſterſhire.

About 1737, he became curate of St. Stephen's church, Briſtol; and was appointed minor-canon in the cathedral of that city. There he attracted the notice of that profound divine, Dr. Joſeph Butler, then Biſhop of Briſtol, and afterwards of Durham. In conſequence of this, his lordſhip appointed Mr. Tucker his domeſtic chaplain; and the latter has told the writer of this article, that they frequently walked in the palace-gardens, in the dark, converſing upon metaphyſical and theological ſubjects.

Oftentimes the good biſhop would be ſunk in a profound reverie, in which he would continue for a conſiderable period, and then, all at once, break out with ſome ſingular remark. After one of theſe occaſional abſences of mind, he ſuddenly aſked Mr. Tucker, "whether he did not think it poſſi-" ble, that whole communities of men might be " ſeized with a fit of madneſs?"

The queſtion was ſo odd, that the chaplain was ſilent, and thought his lordſhip's intellects a little diſordered, for the time. A greater ſhare of experience, and a cloſer obſervation of mankind, eſpecially during great political epochs, have, perhaps, given our divine reaſon to think there is more juſtneſs in the obſervation, than he was, at firſt, inclined to ſuppoſe!

By the intereſt of this amiable and learned pre-

late

late, Mr. Tucker obtained a prebendal ſtall, in the cathedral of Briſtol; and on the death of the pious and ingenious Mr. Catcott, well known by his Treatiſe on the Deluge, and a volume of excellent Sermons, he became rector of St. Stephen. The inhabitants of that pariſh conſiſt chiefly of merchants and tradeſmen, a circumſtance which greatly aided his ardent inclination for commercial and political ſtudies.

In 1745, he preached an excellent ſermon, before the governors of a very laudable inſtitution, then firſt erected in the city of Briſtol. In this diſcourſe, the preacher took a courſe which has rarely been purſued: inſtead of dwelling, as moſt have done, upon the benevolent tendency of theſe eſtabliſhments, he conſidered them "as ſo many "reformatories, or ſchools, erected for the revival "and propagation of morality and religion, and "as means which may conduce towards a national "reformation, in the common people."

After mentioning, briefly indeed, but pointedly, the general depravity of the lower ranks, he ſays, "Nay, and when their extravagancies have run to "that height as to call for *corporal puniſhment*, and "the cenſure of the magiſtrate, there are no hopes "or proſpect of *reclaiming* them by that means. "For they have made it a ſort of point of honour "to outbrave the puniſhment; as for the ſhame "and infamy attending it, theſe things make *now* "but little impreſſion on them: ſo that we have "nothing left of diſcipline in our places of chaſ-

"tiſement

" tiſement and confinement, but their names.
" For our *houſes* of correction, as they are called,
" are ſo far from anſwering the original ends of
" their inſtitution, that they *corrupt* more than
" *correct*, and *harden* rather than *reform*; ſo as to
" make the *young* offender, if ſent there, to be
" threefold more the child of hell than he was
" before."

This ſtrong cenſure, perhaps, is full as applicable to the objects upon which it was originally made, now, as above half a century back.

When the famous bill was brought into the houſe of commons for the naturalization of the Jews, Mr. Tucker, conſidering the ſubject with an enlarged mind, took a decided part in favour of the meaſure, and was, indeed, its moſt able advocate.

Its opponents, tranſported with an extraordinary zeal for the Chriſtian religion, which they affected to think was in danger by this ſtep, treated our divine with great rudeneſs and virulence on the occaſion. He was not only ſeverely attacked in pamphlets, newſpapers, and magazines; but the *pious* people of Briſtol, who had, perhaps, hardened their hearts into intolerance by a traffic in human fleſh, burnt his effigy dreſſed in canonicals, together with his letters on behalf of naturalization!

In 1753, he publiſhed an able pamphlet on the "Turkey Trade," in which he demonſtrates the

evils

evils that result to commerce in general from chartered companies.

At this period, Lord Clare (afterward Earl Nugent) was returned to parliament for Briſtol, which honour he obtained chiefly through the ſtrenuous exertions of Mr. Tucker, whoſe influence in his large and wealthy pariſh was almoſt deciſive on ſuch an occaſion. In return for this favour, the Earl procured for him the Deanery of Glouceſter, in 1758, at which time he took his degree of doctor in divinity.

So great was his reputation for commercial knowledge, which, to a nation ſituated like our's, is of the firſt importance, that Dr. Thomas Hayter, afterwards Biſhop of London, who was then tutor to his preſent majeſty, applied to him to draw up a diſſertation on this ſubject for the peruſal of his royal pupil. It was accordingly done, and gave great ſatisfaction. This work, under the title of "The Elements of Commerce," was printed in quarto, but never publiſhed.

Dr. Warburton, however, who after having been member of the ſame chapter with the Dean, became Biſhop of Glouceſter, thought very differently from the reſt of mankind, in reſpect to his talents, and favourite purſuits; and ſaid once, in his uſual coarſe manner, that "his Dean's trade "was religion, and religion his trade."

But in refutation of this charge, we might produce the Doctor's various publications on moral

and

and religious ſubjects, which ſhew him to be not only deeply verſed in theology; but alſo, what is far better, a man of genuine philanthropy.

In the year 1771, when a bold attempt was made to procure an abolition of ſubſcription to the thirty-nine articles, Dr. Tucker ſtepped forward as an able, but moderate advocate of the church of England. Though he reſiſted with ſtrong and clear arguments the claims of the petitioners on that occaſion, he yet candidly admitted that ſome reformation of the liturgy was wanted, and inſtanced particularly the Athanaſian Creed, which he conſidered as too ſcholaſtic and refined, for a popular confeſſion of faith, and the Nicence Creed being admitted, he further deemed the other ſuperfluous.

About this time he publiſhed "Directions for Travellers," in which he lays down excellent rules, by which gentlemen who viſit foreign countries may not only improve their own minds, but turn their obſervations to the benefit of their native country.

That excellent prelate, Archbiſhop Secker, was highly pleaſed with this uſeful performance, and ſent the author ſome obſervations which he had made in the courſe of a peruſal. The public would be much gratified by a new edition of theſe "Directions," with the Archbiſhop's remarks annexed.

In 1772, the Dean printed a ſmall volume of ſermons, in which he explains the doctrines of

election

election and *juſtification*, upon ſcriptural grounds, in oppoſition to what has been called the *evangelical ſyſtem of faith*. At that time a very violent diſpute was carried on between the Calviniſtick and the Arminian Methodiſts, the former headed by Meſſrs. Toplady and Hill, and the latter by Meſſrs Weſleys and Fletcher.

The year following he publiſhed "Letters to the Rev. Dr. Kippis; wherein the claim of the church of England, as to an authority in matters of faith, and to a power of decreeing rites and ceremonies, is diſcuſſed and aſcertained," &c. 8vo.

The diſpute between Great Britain and her colonies in North America, began now to aſſume a very ſerious and portentous aſpect, and nothing leſs than an open rupture was expected, in conſequence of the obſtinacy of the one, and the firmneſs of the other.

The Dean was an attentive obſerver of this unfortunate conteſt. He examined the affair with a very different eye from that of a party-man, or an intereſted merchant, and he diſcovered, as he conceived, that both ſides would be better by an abſolute ſeparation. The more he thought on this ſubject, the more he was perſuaded that extenſive colonies were an evil, rather than a benefit to any commercial nation.

On this principle, therefore, he publiſhed his "Thoughts upon the Diſpute between the Mother Country and America." He aſſerted, that the latter could not be conquered; and added, that if it could,

could, the purchaſe would be dearly bought. He warned this country againſt commencing a war with the colonies, and adviſed, above all things, that they ſhould be left to themſelves; an event which would be productive of infinite good to Great Britain.

This poſition and advice ſtartled all parties, as well thoſe who were advocates for American freedom, as thoſe who were zealots for coercive meaſures and taxation. By both, the Dean was conſidered as a ſort of madman, who had rambled out of the proper line of his profeſſion to commence political quack; and it is remarkable that thoſe two great men, Dr. Johnſon and Edmund Burke, treated the Doctor's hypotheſis with great contempt, though the one was the champion of, and the other an enemy to, American taxation.

The language of the latter, in the Houſe of Commons, reſpecting the Dean's propoſal was, indeed, exceeding harſh and illiberal. In his famous ſpeech on American taxation, April 13th 1774, this celebrated orator, called him "the advocate "of the court faction; and, I ſuppoſe," adds he, "that his earneſt labours in this vineyard will raiſe "him to a biſhopric." The Dean was actually rouſed into reſentment on this occaſion, and he accordingly publiſhed a letter to Mr. Burke, in which he not only vindicates the purity of his own principles, but retorts upon his adverſary in very forcible and manly terms.

The ground of Mr. Burke's enmity to the Dean,

originated in the latter's ſtrenuous oppoſition to his being admitted to repreſent Briſtol in the Houſe of Commons. Dr. Tucker had a high opinion of Lord Nugent's parliamentary conduct and abilities; added to which, he owed him much on the ſcore of gratitude. He, therefore, conſidered himſelf as bound to ſupport his intereſt, with all the influence he poſſeſſed. This excited Mr. Burke's diſlike to the Dean of Glouceſter, and ſharpened his wit on the ſubject of his political opinions.

Our author, however, went on vindicating and enforcing his favourite ſyſtem, in ſpite of all the obloquy with which it was treated both in the ſenate and from the preſs. As the war proceeded, many intelligent perſons began to ſee more truth and reaſon in his ſentiments, and time has at laſt demonſtrated that he was completely in the right. Towards the cloſe of that unhappy conteſt, the Dean aſſumed the appellation of CASSANDRA, alluding to the ill ſucceſs with which his warnings had been attended. This ſignature is found at the end of thoſe hints and ſhort eſſays which he frequently printed in the newſpapers, and which it were to be wiſhed ſome perſon would collect and preſerve, leſt they ſhould ſink into unmerited oblivion.

When the terrors of an invaſion were very prevalent, in 1779, he circulated, in a variety of periodical publications, ſome of the moſt ſenſible obſervations ever made on the ſubject, in order to

quiet

quiet the fears of the people. He ſtates at length, and with great accuracy, the numerous difficulties that muſt attend the attempt to invade this country, and the ſtill greater that muſt be encountered by the invaders after their landing. Theſe obſervations have been reprinted, with good effect, in the courſe of the preſent war.

In 1781, the Dean publiſhed, what he had printed long before, "A Treatiſe on Civil Government," in which his principal deſign is to counteract the doctrines of the celebrated Mr. Locke and his followers. The book made a conſiderable noiſe, and was very ſharply attacked by ſeveral able writers on the ſide of liberty, particularly Dr. Towers. Since that period, it has ſunk into contempt.

The year following he cloſed his political career with a pamphlet entitled, "*Cui Bono?*" in which he balances the profit and loſs of each of the belligerent powers, and recapitulates all his former poſitions on the ſubject of war and colonial poſſeſſions.

His publications ſince that period have conſiſted of ſome tracts on the commercial regulations of Ireland; on the exportation of woollens; and on the iron trade *.

In 1777, he publiſhed ſeventeen practical ſermons, in one volume, octavo. In the year 1778

* The Dean, in one of his tracts on the diſpute with Ireland, pleads ſtrenuouſly, and with his accuſtomed ingenuity, for an union between the two kingdoms.

one of his parishioners, Miss Pelloquin, a maiden lady of large fortune and most exemplary piety, bequeathed to the Dean her dwelling-house in Queen-square, Bristol, with a very handsome legacy, as a testimony of her great esteem for his worth and talents.

It should be recorded to his praise, that though enjoying but very moderate preferment (for to a man of no paternal estate, or other ecclesiastical dignity, the Deanery of Gloucester is no very advantageous situation), he has, notwithstanding, been a liberal benefactor to several public institutions, and a distinguished patron of merit.

The celebrated John Henderson, of Pembroke College, Oxford, was sent to the university, and supported there at the Dean's expence, when he had no other means whatever of gratifying his ardent desire for study.

We shall mention another instance of generosity in this place, which reflects the greatest honour upon the Dean. About the year 1790, he entertained thoughts of resigning his rectory in Bristol, and without communicating his design to any other person, he applied to the Chancellor, in whose gift it is, for leave to quit it in favour of his curate, a most deserving man, with a large family.

His Lordship was willing enough that he should give up the living, but refused him the liberty of nominating his successor. On this the Dean resolved to hold it himself, till he could find a fit opportunity to succeed in his object. After weighing

ing the matter more deliberately, he communicated his wiſh to his pariſhioners, and adviſed them to draw up a petition to the Chancellor in favour of the curate. This was accordingly done, and ſigned by all of them, without any exception, either on the part of the diſſenters or others.

The Chancellor yielded at laſt to the application; in conſequence of which the Dean cheerfully reſigned in favour of a ſucceſſor well qualified to tread in his ſteps.

Since that time, he has reſided chiefly at Glouceſter*, viewing his approaching diſſolution, which, in the courſe of nature, cannot be far diſtant, with the placid mind of a Chriſtian, conſcious of having done his duty both to GOD and MAN †.

Here follows a tolerably correct liſt of the Dean's works;

THEOLOGICAL AND CONTROVERSIAL.

1. A Sermon, preached before the governors of the infirmary of Briſtol, 1745.

2. Letters in Behalf of the Naturalization of the Jews.

3. Apology for the Church of England, 1772.

4. Six Sermons, 12mo. 1773.

5. Letter to Dr. Kippis, on his Vindication of the Proteſtant diſſenting Miniſters.

6. Two Sermons and Four Tracts.

7. View of the Difficulties of the Trinitarian, Arian, and Socinian Syſtems, and Seventeen Sermons, 1777.

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* He married a Mrs. Crowe, of that city, in 1781.

† When his preſent Majeſty viſited the cathedral at Glouceſter, he walked home with the Dean to his houſe, and appe aredto be greatly pleaſed with his converſation.

POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL.

8. A pamphlet on the Turkey Trade.

9. A brief View of the Advantages and Diſadvantages which attend a Trade with France.

10. Reflections on the Expediency of naturalizing foreign Proteſtants, and a Letter to a Friend on the ſame Subject.

11. The Pleas and Arguments of the Mother Country and the Colonies ſtated.

12. A Letter to Mr. Burke.

13. Quere, Whether a Connection with, or Separation from America, would be for national Advantage?

14. Anſwers to Objections againſt the Separation from America.

15. A Treatiſe on Civil Government.

16. *Cui Bono?*

17. Four Letters on national Subjects.

18. Sequel to Sir William Jones on Government.

19. On the Diſpute between Great Britain and Ireland.

20. Several Papers under the ſignature of Caſſandra, &c. on the difficulties attendant on an invaſion.

21. Elements of Commerce, printed, but never publiſhed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

22. Directions for Travellers.

23. Cautions againſt the Uſe of Spirituous Liquors.

24. A Tract againſt the barbarous Diverſions of Cock-fighting, &c.

ADMIRAL LORD VISCOUNT DUNCAN.

WHATEVER may be thought of the origin of the preſent war, or the principles upon which it has been conducted; whatever humiliating ideas may, on ſome grounds, prevail in the minds of Engliſhmen

liſhmen while they are reviewing the hiſtory of this extraordinary and eventful conteſt;—there can ſtill be but one opinion reſpecting the conduct of our naval commanders, in general: and every Britiſh heart muſt glow with rapture at the conſideration, that the honour of the national flag, ſo far from being tarniſhed in a ſingle inſtance, has received greater luſtre than ever diſtinguiſhed it at any former period.

Among the eminent names which the pen of the hiſtorian will have to dwell upon with peculiar ſatisfaction, when engaged in recording the naval events of the preſent times, that of Adam Lord Duncan will be proudly conſpicuous.

This diſtinguiſhed veteran, born at Dundee, in Scotland, July 1ſt, 1731, was the younger ſon of a very ancient and reputable family, which has for a long ſeries of years held the lordſhip of Lundie in the ſhire of Perth. The family eſtate, the rental of which is about 500l. came to Lord Duncan about two years ago, in conſequence of the death of his elder brother the Colonel.

The younger branches even of a reſpectable family, are generally obliged to force their way in life by their own merits and exertions. Lord Duncan accordingly owed but little to his relations. He was very early ſent to ſea, a profeſſion which coſts but a trifle in the outſet, and is generally attended with but ſmall expence after the young adventurer is thus diſpoſed of. Much is not known of the admiral's early ſervices; but we are warranted in

conjecturing that they muſt have been meritorious, by his attaining the rank of poſt captain, February 25th, 1761, at which time he was appointed to the command of the Valiant, by means of that excellent officer Lord Keppel, and was ever after honóured with the friendſhip of that gallant commander of the old ſchool. During laſt war Captain Duncan had no opportunity of diſplaying his nautical talents, except when he commanded the Blenheim at the relief of Gibraltar. He was with his friend at the taking of the Havannah; and when Keppel was appointed to a flag, he choſe Duncan to be his Captain.

He was alſo a member of the court-martial which ſat upon the trial of that diſtinguiſhed veteran; and continued attached to him by the ſtrongeſt ties of intimacy and friendſhip, till his death.

On September 24th, 1787, he was made a rear-admiral; in 1793, he was promoted to the rank of vice-admiral; and in 1795, he became admiral of the blue.

Hitherto he had moved on in his profeſſion regularly, but with little notice, for it had not been his lot to get employed on any ſervice likely to bring him forward to the public view.

His appointment, at laſt, to that ſtation, in which he has all at once obtained laurels equal to thoſe which adorn the brows of men who have been more extenſively employed, ſeems to have been owing to his relationſhip to Mr. Secretary Dundas, whoſe niece he married, and by whom he has ſeveral children.

This

This alliance procured for him an appointment he was admirably fitted for, the north-ſea ſtation. Nor does it at all reflect upon his lordſhip, that his circumſtances ſtood in need of his being thus employed. With hardly any other fortune than his half-pay as an admiral, it was natural enough for him to be anxious to be engaged in active ſervice, for the benefit of a wife and children whom he loved. The ſcene of action which he choſe was an arduous one. The ſeverity of the winter ſeaſon, in that ſea, muſt alſo have been very trying to a man of his time of life. Moreover, he had to encounter with difficulties ſtill more troubleſome and painful to a Britiſh officer: we allude to the mutinous ſpirit which prevailed in his fleet, in common with the other naval ſquadrons in the Channel.

In the midſt of all theſe unpleaſant circumſtances he manifeſted a cool and ſteady mind. He kept his ſtation with ſuch perſevering ardour, in the moſt boiſterous ſeaſon of the year, that the enemy could not, by any means, effect their deſign of eſcaping from their ports. The indefatigable admiral continued blockading them, either with the whole, or part of his ſquadron, till the ſummer of 1797, when the mutiny raged in his ſquadron in a moſt alarming manner. Even when he was left with only three ſhips, he ſtill remained firm in his ſtation off the Texel, and ſucceeded in keeping the Dutch ſhips from proceeding to ſea; a circumſtance, in all probability, of as high conſequence to the nation as his ſubſequent victory.

His

His behaviour, at the time of the mutiny, will beſt be ſeen from the ſpeech which he made to the crew of his own ſhip, on June 3d, 1797, and which, as a piece of artleſs and affecting oratory, cannot but be admired by the moſt faſtidious taſte. His men being aſſembled, the Admiral thus addreſſed them from the quarter-deck:

" My lads—I once more call you together, with " a ſorrowful heart, from what I have lately ſeen of " the diſaffection of the fleets; I call it *diſaffection*, " for the crews have *no grievances*. To be deſerted " by my fleet, in the face of an enemy, is a diſ- " grace which I believe never before happened to " a Britiſh Admiral: nor could I have ſuppoſed it " poſſible. My greateſt comfort, under God, is, " that I have been ſupported by the officers, ſea- " men, and marines of *this ſhip*; for which, with a " heart overflowing with gratitude, I requeſt you to " accept my ſincere thanks.

" I flatter myſelf much good may reſult from your " example, by bringing thoſe deluded people to " a ſenſe of the duty which they owe, not only to " their King and Country, but to themſelves. The " Britiſh Navy has ever been the ſupport of that " Liberty which has been handed down to us by " our anceſtors, and which, I truſt, we ſhall main- " tain to the lateſt poſterity; and that can only be " done by unanimity and obedience.

" The ſhip's company, and others who have diſ- " tinguiſhed themſelves by their loyalty and good " order, deſerve to be, and doubtleſs *will be*, the

" favourites

" favourites of a grateful country; they will alſo
" have, from their inward feelings, a comfort which
" muſt be laſting, and not like the fleeting and falſe
" confidence of thoſe who have ſwerved from their
" duty!

" It has often been my pride with you to look
" into the Texel, and ſee a foe which dreaded com-
" ing out to meet us.—My pride is *now* humbled
" indeed!—My feelings are not eaſily to be ex-
" preſſed!—Our cup has overflowed, and made us
" wanton. The all-wiſe PROVIDENCE has given us
" this check as a warning, and I hope we ſhall
" improve by it. On Him, then, let us truſt, where
" our *only* ſecurity can be found.

" I find there are many good men among us; for
" my own part, I have had full confidence of all
" in this ſhip: and once more beg to expreſs my
" approbation of your conduct.

" May GOD, who has thus far conducted you,
" continue to do ſo; and may the Britiſh Navy,
" the glory and ſupport of our country, be reſtored
" to its wonted ſplendour, and be not only the bul-
" wark of Britain, but the terror of the world.
" But this can only be effected by a ſtrict adherence
" to our duty and obedience; and let us pray that
" the Almighty GOD may keep us in the right
" way of thinking. GOD bleſs you all!"

The crew of the Venerable were ſo affected by this impreſſive addreſs, that, on retiring, there was not a dry eye among them.

On the ſuppreſſion of the mutiny, the Admiral reſumed

reſumed his ſtation with his whole fleet off the coaſt of Holland, either to keep the Dutch ſquadron in the Texel, or to attack them if they ſhould attempt to come out. It has ſince been diſcovered, that the object of the Batavian Republic, in conjunction with France, was to invade Ireland, where doubtleſs they would have been cordially welcomed by numerous bodies of the diſaffected. Hence it will be ſeen, that the object of watching and checking the motions of the Dutch Admiral was of the utmoſt conſequence.

After a long and very vigilant attention to the important truſt repoſed in him, the Engliſh Admiral was neceſſitated to repair to Yarmouth-roads to refit. The Batavian commander ſeized this favourable interval, and proceeded to ſea. That active officer Captain Trollope, however, was upon the look-out, and having diſcovered the enemy, immediately diſpatched a veſſel with the glad intelligence to Admiral Duncan, who loſt not an inſtant of time, but puſhed out at once, and in the morning of the 11th of October, fell in with Capt. Trollope's ſquadron of obſervations, with the ſignal flying for an enemy to the leeward.

By a maſterly manœuvre, the Admiral placed himſelf between them and the Texel, ſo as to prevent them from re-entering without riſking an engagement. An action accordingly took place between Camperdown and Egmont, in nine fathoms water, and within five miles of the coaſt. The Admiral's own ſhip, in purſuance of a plan of naval

evolution

evolution which he had long before determined to carry into effect, broke the enemy's line, and closely engaged the Dutch Admiral de Winter, who, after a moſt gallant defence, was obliged to ſtrike. Eight ſhips were taken, two of which carried flags!

All circumſtances conſidered—the time of the year, the force of the enemy, and the nearneſs to a dangerous ſhore—this action will be pronounced, by every judge of nautical affairs, to be one of the moſt brilliant that graces our annals.

The nation was fully ſenſible of the merit and conſequence of this glorious victory: politicians beheld in it the annihilation of the deſigns of our combined enemies; naval men admired the addreſs and ſkill which were diſplayed by the Engliſh commander in his approaches to the attack; and the people at large were tranſported with admiration, joy, and gratitude.

The honours which were inſtantly conferred upon the VENERABLE Admiral, received the approbation of men of all parties. October 21ſt, 1797, he was created Lord Viſcount Duncan of Camperdown, and Baron Duncan of Lundie in the ſhire of Perth. On his being introduced into the Houſe of Peers, on November the 8th, the Lord Chancellor communicated to him the thanks of the Houſe, and in his ſpeech ſaid: "He congratulated "his Lordſhip upon his acceſſion to the honour of "a diſtinguiſhed ſeat in that place, to which his "very meritorious and *unparalleled* profeſſional con-"duct had deſervedly raiſed him; that conduct

"(the

" (the Chancellor added) was ſuch as not only " merited the thanks of their Lordſhips' Houſe, " but the gratitude and applauſe of the Country " at large: it had been inſtrumental, under the auſ- " pices of Providence, in eſtabliſhing the ſecurity " of his Majeſty's dominions, and fruſtrating the " ambitious and deſtructive deſigns of the enemy."

In the laſt ſeſſion of parliament, a penſion of 2000*l. per annum* was granted his Lordſhip, for himſelf and the two next heirs of the peerage.

In perſon, Lord Duncan is of a manly, athletic form, ſix feet three inches high, erect and graceful, with a countenance that indicates great intelligence and benevolence.

His private character, is that of a moſt affectionate relative, a ſteady friend, and, what crowns the whole with a luſtre ſuperior to all other qualities or diſtinctions, he is a man of great and unaffected piety.

The latter virtue may excite, in ſome perſons, a ſmile of contempt; but the liberal-minded will be pleaſed to read that Lord Duncan feels it an honour to be a chriſtian.

He encourages religion by his own practice; and the public obſervance of it has been always kept up where he has held the command.

When the victory was decided, which has immortalized his name, his Lordſhip ordered the crew of his ſhip to be called together, and, at their head, upon his bended knees, in the preſence of the Dutch Admiral, who was greatly affected with the

ſcene,

ſcene, he ſolemnly and pathetically offered up praiſe to the GOD OF BATTLES!

Let it be added here, that his demeanour, when all eyes were upon him, in the cathedral of St. Paul's, on the day of general thankſgiving, was ſo humble, modeſt, and devout, as greatly to increaſe that admiration which his ſervices had procured him.

In ſhort, Lord Duncan is one more inſtance of the truth of the aſſertion, that piety and courage ought to be inſeparably allied; and that the latter quality, without the former, loſes its principal virtue.

ΧΛΣ.

DR. SAMUEL HORSLEY.

LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

[BY A FRIEND.]

OF all the right reverend members of the epiſcopal bench, no one has obtained a greater ſhare of celebrity, than this prelate.

We are well aware, that a Biſhop who has diſtinguiſhed himſelf in political, as well as theological, controverſy, will be regarded by different men with very oppoſite ſentiments. Our aim, however, has no excluſive reference to either of theſe objects; and therefore we ſhall ſtudy to give a faithful delineation of the character before us, without the ſlighteſt attention to the ſpirit of party, whether that party be of a religious or political complexion.

Dr.

Dr. Samuel Horſley is the eldeſt of the three ſons of the Rev. Mr. Horſley, formerly miniſter of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. The grandfather of the Biſhop was bred a diſſenting divine, but he afterwards thought proper to conform to the eſtabliſhment.

His Lordſhip was born about the year 1737, and received the ground-work of his education at Weſtminſter ſchool, whence he was removed to the Univerſity of Cambridge.

He applied himſelf, while there, chiefly to the ſtudy of mathematics; and not content with carefully reading the writings of the acuteſt of the moderns in that line, he went back to the profoundeſt of the ancients, and made himſelf thoroughly maſter of their moſt intricate reaſonings.

Having taken his degree of Maſter of Arts, he accepted an invitation to go to Oxford, as private tutor to the preſent Earl of Aylesford. From that Univerſity he received a degree of Doctor of Laws, and 1769 printed at the Clarendon preſs, his edition of the Inclinations of Apollonius, a geometrical work of conſiderable value, though exceedingly abſtruſe. Previouſly to his time, mathematical learning had been in little repute at Oxford; but ſince that period it has grown into faſhion there, ſo that this Univerſity can hardly be ſaid to fall ſhort of her ſiſter, in that great branch of human knowledge.

Here our author firſt conceived the deſign of publiſhing a complete edition of the works of Sir Iſaac Newton;

Newton; to which end he began to collect the neceſſary materials.

On leaving the Univerſity, Dr. Horſley came to London, where he was elected fellow of the Royal Society, of which he was alſo choſen ſecretary in 1773. He continued to ſerve that office with the greateſt credit to himſelf, as well as benefit to the ſcientific world, till the reſignation of the late preſident, Sir John Pringle, when finding that the *connoiſſeurs* and *virtuoſi* were gaining ground, he retired.

Soon after his ſettling in the metropolis, Dr. Horſley was noticed by that obſerving and excellent prelate, Biſhop Lowth, who invited him to become his domeſtic chaplain. It is ſomewhat remarkable that, at this time, he was ſuſpected of not being quite orthodox in his theological ſentiments, and thoſe who pretended to ſmell hereſy in him, wondered at Biſhop Lowth's taking him under his patronage. The only grounds for this ſuſpicion, were his being a profound mathematician, and his cloſe intimacy with Mr. Maty and other men of ſcience, who were avowed ſocinians.

In 1774, Biſhop Lowth preſented him to the rectories of St. Mary Newington and Albury, both in the county of Surrey; and in the courſe of the ſame year he married a Miſs Botnam.

In 1776, he publiſhed propoſals for a complete and elegant edition of the works of the immortal Newton, which appeared in 1779, in five volumes,

quarto, with an excellent dedication to the King, in Latin.

It was expected that a large memoir respecting the Prince of Philosophers would have been prefixed to this edition; and considerable disappointment was, of course, experienced by the public when nothing of this kind appeared. Certain it is, that the learned editor gave room for this expectation, and had actually made some progress in the life. He moreover had conversed with Dr. Johnson upon the subject, who advised him to write it in Latin, as best suited to the dignity of the character. This biographical *desideratum*, however, has not yet made its appearance; and we are apprehensive that it never will.

In 1778, when the controversy was on foot between Drs. Priestley, Price, and others, respecting materialism and philosophical necessity, Dr. Horsley preached a sermon, on Good Friday, at St. Paul's Cathedral, which he afterwards published. In this ingenious discourse he reconciles, with much force of argument, the doctrine of divine providence with the free agency of man, and combats the necessarian hypothesis with great, and, in the opinion of his friends, complete success.

About this time he was appointed Archdeacon of St. Albans, by Bishop Lowth, who, in 1782, presented him to the valuable living of South Weald, in Essex.

In 1783, Dr. Priestley published his celebrated work,

work, the "History of the Corruptions of Chriſtianity." It need hardly be mentioned, that the principal deſign of this was to overthrow the catholic doctrine reſpecting Chriſt's divinity.

Great was the triumph manifeſted by the unitarian party on the publication of ſo elaborate an hiſtory. The outcry made by them on the occaſion, naturally rouſed the attention of thoſe who adhered to the Orthodox confeſſion, and Dr. Horſley ſeized this opportunity of ſhewing not only the ſoundneſs of his faith, but his abilities for the moſt intricate branches of theological controverſy.

In the ſummer of this year, he delivered to the clergy of the Archdeaconry of St. Albans a charge, in which he expreſsly controverted the Socinian poſition—that the doctrine of the Trinity was not maintained by the Chriſtian church in the firſt three centuries; and he not only gave a flat contradiction to Dr. Prieſtley's aſſertion on this point, but charged him with having taken, without acknowledgment, the whole of his argument from Zwicker, and other eminent ſocinians of the laſt century.

This diſcourſe, at the requeſt of his reverend auditory, was printed, with an appendix, explaining and confirming the poſitions which it contained.

Dr. Prieſtley, whoſe pen is that of a ready writer, was not to be daunted at meeting with ſo formidable an antagoniſt; on the contrary, he ruſhed at once into the battle, with the impetuoſity of a man who ſeemed to place all his reputation, as a combatant, upon the event of this conteſt. He, of courſe, in-

ſtantly replied to the Archdeacon, in a ſeries of letters, which contained all his former aſſertions, expreſſed in a more confident tone than before. Dr. Horſley was aware of the advantage which the precipitancy of his opponent had given, and, therefore, in his anſwer, which was alſo in the epiſtolary form, he noticed the frequent ſlips in Greek quotation, and reference, which the Doctor had made; and, with great adroitneſs, left it to the reader to judge, whether ſo haſty and incautious an hiſtorian was to be depended upon in a matter of ſuch importance.

But he did not merely expoſe the Doctor's miſtakes. He followed up the attack by numerous proofs in behalf of the common belief, drawn from the early fathers of the church, and the pureſt eccleſiaſtical hiſtorians. The diſplay of reading, and acute reſearch, in theſe letters, is wonderful. The ſtyle alſo is admirable; and though, at times, it aſſumes a lofty manner, yet the reader of taſte finds himſelf charmed with the elegance of the language, and the cloſeneſs of the reaſoning.

Dr. Prieſtley continued the combat, by another ſeries of letters; to which the Archdeacon again replied. The controverſy here cloſed, on the part of the latter; who ſignified, that it was an endleſs taſk to contend upon an exhauſted topic, with one who was never diſpoſed to ceaſe diſputing till he had obtained the laſt word. In 1789, Dr. Horſley collected theſe tracts, and printed them in one volume,

volume, octavo, with ſome additions, particularly a Sermon on the Incarnation, preached at Newington, on Chriſtmas-day, 1785, and which, having a material relation to the controverſy in queſtion, he thought proper to inſert in this collection.

While this diſpute was going on, our learned divine was engaged in another, which made nearly as much noiſe as the firſt, at leaſt in the ſcientific world. When Sir Joſeph Banks came in as Preſident of the Royal Society, on the reſignation of Sir John Pringle, the mathematical and philoſophical members of the Newtonian ſchool were diſguſted at the extraordinary preference which was ſhewn to ſubjects, as they conceived, of an inferior nature, to thoſe which ought, in their opinion, to engage the firſt learned ſociety in the world. It has been ſaid, that cabals were formed by thoſe members of the old ſtamp againſt the preſident and his friends; but of this no proof was ever brought forward.

In 1784, the latter ventured upon a ſtep, which could not fail to fan the ſmothering flame into a blaze. The council thought proper to diſmiſs the learned Doctor Hutton from the office of Latin ſecretary for foreign correſpondence, upon the very frivolous pretence, that it was improper ſuch a poſt ſhould be filled by a perſon who did not reſide in the metropolis. The ſcientific members took fire at this treatment of one of the ableſt and moſt reſpectable of their body. Accordingly, in ſeveral meetings of the ſociety, attempts were

made to leſſen the influence of their preſident *, and to reinſtate Dr. Hutton in his place, but without ſucceſs. In this conteſt between philoſophy and the *virtuoſi*, Dr. Horſley made the moſt conſpicuous figure. Finding, however, that his labours, and thoſe of his learned aſſociates, were in vain, he forſook (to expreſs it in his own forcible language) "that temple, where philoſophy once "reigned, and where NEWTON preſided as her "officiating miniſter."

In 1786, Dr. Horſley obtained, without either ſolicitation, or even expectancy, a prebend in the cathedral church of Glouceſter. His friend, on this occaſion, was Lord Thurlow, then Chancellor; who, without being perſonally known to Dr. H. or receiving any application on his behalf, reſiſted every requeſt that was made for this valuable preferment, and beſtowed it upon the man whom he juſtly conſidered as having merited it the moſt of any divine in this age.

During the year following, the Doctor preached an ordination ſermon, in the cathedral of Glouceſter, in which he maintained, with great ſtrength, this poſition—that, on the ceſſation of miraculous gifts, human learning is ſubſtituted by divine appointment, as an eſſential qualification for the Chriſtian miniſtry. At the command of the venerable prelate, before whom it was delivered

* Sir Joſeph was accuſed, in an able pamphlet of that day, of taking very improper means to obtain the admiſſion or rejection of candidates.

(Dr.

(Dr. Samuel Halifax), this ingenious diſcourſe was, ſoon afterwards, printed; and excited conſiderable notice, and ſome controverſy.

Next year, Dr. Horſley was elevated to the epiſcopal bench, on the tranſlation of Dr. Smallwell from the ſee of St. David to that of Oxford. Lord Thurlow, on this occaſion, was again his ſteady and unſolicited patron; and made it a point to bring in his friend, in oppoſition to candidates who were backed by all the force of miniſterial influence.

Soon after his admiſſion to the Houſe of Lords, Dr. Horſley had an opportunity of diſplaying his eloquence and learning, which he did to great advantage, on Earl Stanhope's motion for a reviſion and reform of the canons of the church. His ſpeech, on this occaſion, afforded uncommon pleaſure to the Houſe; and, what was rather remarkable, drew from the noble Earl, juſt mentioned, a very liberal encomium.

On the great ſtruggle made by the proteſtant diſſenters, in 1790, to obtain a repeal of the Corporation and Teſt acts, a pamphlet appeared, entitled, "A Review of the Caſe of the Proteſtant Diſſenters," which was written with ſuch boldneſs and elegance on the High Church ſide, that, though anonymous, all parties concurred in attributing it to the Biſhop of St. David's; nor were they wrong in their conjecture.

The year following, he made a conſpicuous figure, in conſequence of his primary charge to the

clergy of his dioceſe; in this he maintained the old-faſhioned doctrine of *juſtification by faith alone*, and preſſed home upon his hearers, that the too common practice of preaching mere *morality* was deſtructive of vital religion.

This charge, of a complexion ſo very different from what had been uſually delivered in cathedral churches, attracted conſiderable notice. Thoſe who were attached to the Calviniſtic principles, or as they are commonly called, Evangelical Chriſtians, were enraptured with the ſentiments conveyed in this diſcourſe. Others, on the contrary, conceived that the Biſhop had miſtaken the doctrine of the goſpel, on the ſubject of juſtification; while the Unitarians were extremely irritated at the harſh and perhaps illiberal terms in which his lordſhip had mentioned their ſect and creed, in his charge. Several replies were accordingly publiſhed to it; but the learned prelate ſeemed to conſider himſelf ſuperior to the adverſaries who wiſhed to provoke him again into controverſy.

His conduct in the ſee of St. David's was highly praiſeworthy. Of all the biſhoprics, no one exhibited more poverty, or more ignorance, on the part of the clergy, than this. Many of the curacies, when his lordſhip entered upon the government of this extenſive dioceſe, did not exceed ten pounds *per annum*, and ſome of the churches were actually ſerved for five! It may eaſily be concluded what ſort of divines a great part of theſe poor miniſters were, under ſuch circumſtances. What

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was ſtill worſe, the multitude of candidates for orders increaſed yearly, ſo that Wales poured her ſuperfluous clergy into England, to the diſgrace of the cloth, and the real injury of ſuch as were regularly bred. The writer of this has no inclination to ſport at the expence of any body of men; but he could entertain the reader with many whimſical anecdotes reſpecting the learning and ingenuity of the Welch clergy. A reform was therefore neceſſary, but it required a ſtrong and perſevering mind to accompliſh it.

Our indefatigable prelate was not to be daunted by any obſtacles. He obtained, with the greateſt poſſible diſpatch, an accurate and minute ſtate of his dioceſe. He then gave notice to the beneficed clergy, who did not reſide, that they would be compelled to reſidence, or to allow their curates a more liberal ſalary. By theſe means, he remedied that ſhameful abuſe, of one man's ſerving ſeveral churches on the ſame day; directing that a curate ſhould ſerve two only, and thoſe within a moderate diſtance from each other.

Having regulated the condition of the clergy, he proceeded to a ſtricter courſe, with reſpect to candidates for holy orders, admitting none without perſonally examining them himſelf, and looking very narrowly into the titles which they produced.

With all this vigilance, his lordſhip acted to them as a tender father, encouraging them to viſit him during his ſtay in the country, which was uſually for ſeveral months in the year, aſſiſting them

them with advice, and adminiſtering to their temporal neceſſities with a liberal and paternal hand.

In his progreſs through the dioceſe, he frequently preached in the pariſh churches, eſpecially on the days when the ſacrament was adminiſtered, and beſtowed conſiderable largeſſes upon the poor.

He kept a moſt hoſpitable table, at his epiſcopal palace, at Aberguilly, near Caermarthen, to which the neighbouring gentry and clergy were always welcome. In ſhort, he was a bleſſing to his people; and they followed him with grateful hearts, and parted from him with infinite reluctance. This is not an ideal picture: it is a true, but imperfect ſketch of actual life; and ſuch as the feeble painter had opportunities of ſeeing more than once.

On January 30th, 1793, the Biſhop of St. David's was appointed to preach before the Houſe of Lords; and as the recent execution of the King of France was the general topic of converſation and pity, the Abbey was greatly crowded. That diſcourſe is in print; and whatever may be thought of the notions on government, which diſtinguiſh it, there can be but one opinion concerning its very beautiful and pathetic peroration. When publiſhed, the Biſhop appended to his ſermon a long vindication of the character of Calvin, from the charge of being a friend to rebellion and regicide.

The following year, he was tranſlated, on the death of Biſhop Thomas, from St. David's to Rocheſter, and to the deanery of Weſtminſter, on which occaſion

occaſion he reſigned all his other church preferments.

When he entered upon his office, as Dean of Weſtminſter, he found many things in the condition of that church, which ſtood in great need of reformation; and, with his uſual activity, he inſtantly ſet about the work. In particular, the ſalaries of the minor-canons, and officers, were extremely low, and by no means proportionate. With a moſt commendable ſpirit of liberality, therefore, he obtained an inſtant advance, and then began to regulate the conduct and duty of the perſons whom he had ſo materially aſſiſted. Had he, on the contrary, ſet about a more exact diſcipline, without attending to the neceſſities of theſe men, they would, perhaps, have juſtly conſidered him as a ſevere taſk-maſter, and murmured at his regulations. By this mode of conduct he gained their eſteem and gratitude; and it may ſafely be ſaid, that no man ever filled that ſtation with ſuch popularity as the preſent dean.

In the career of politics, his popularity, perhaps, is not quite ſo great. The zeal which he diſplays in the agitation of public meaſures, and the promptneſs with which he expreſſes his ſentiments on the ſide of the eſtabliſhed order of things, civil and religious, have procured him many enemies. Without endeavouring to extenuate any thing reprehenſible in his conduct, let us be permitted to hope, that his language has been often greatly miſrepreſented, and made by

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his adverſaries to expreſs a meaning which the right reverend prelate holds in abhorrence. He has been too apt to expreſs his ſentiments in abſtract propoſitions, which may be made, by artful men, to ſignify what never entered into his lordſhip's mind. Were we, generouſly, to put the beſt conſtruction upon his obſervations, and which certainly ought to be done, unleſs his own explanation proved deciſive; in all probability, we ſhould find here leſs occaſion for cenſure, and more for commendation.

But to leave his political reputation to its fate.—In 1796, he printed, without his name, a moſt profound and elegant diſſertation on "the Latin and Greek Proſodies," dedicated to Lord Thurlow. In this learned performance he ſhews an uncommon depth of penetration into, and acquaintance with, the nature and conſtruction of the ancient languages; and approves himſelf a moſt powerful, though, perhaps, not an invincible advocate for the uſe of the Greek accents.

We underſtand that this zealous and active prelate is now deeply engaged in a work upon the prophecies of the Old and New Teſtament; and from his known powers, as a profound thinker and calculator, there can be no doubt entertained of the value of his performance, ſhould he, as is to be hoped, favour the world with the fruits of his reſearch.

Beſides the works already mentioned, Biſhop Horſley is the author of ſome ingenious papers on

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mathematical ſubjects, various ſermons on public occaſions, and ſeveral epiſcopal charges.

He has been twice married, and has one ſon, who is at preſent at Chriſt-church college, Oxford.

JUDGE BULLER.

SIR FRANCIS BULLER is the ſon of the late John Buller, Eſq. of Morval, in the county of Cornwall. The extenſive parliamentary intereſt of his family is well known; this, joined to his own abilities, could not fail to raiſe him, early in life, to an eminent rank in his profeſſion.

After being educated at Wincheſter ſchool, he was called to the bar in the year 1763, and brought into parliament ſoon after. This, with a lawyer, is generally a prelude to a ſilk gown, but that was not immediately obtained. His profeſſional *debut* did not promiſe much eminence, for he commenced his career as a ſpecial pleader, having ſtudied the practical part of this dull but neceſſary branch of legal ſcience under the preſent Judge Aſhhurſt, and, like his precurſor, he was always ranked among the moſt eminent in that particular line. This character, accordingly, ſoon brought him into great repute as a common-law draughtſman; and Erſkine, after having laid by his ſword, firſt brandiſhed a pen at his deſk.

His

His practice at the bar was, at the ſame time, very conſiderable.

In 1772, Mr. Buller publiſhed "An Introduction to the Law of Nisi Prius," which is a *noli me tangere* of its kind, and will long continue to enjoy a high degree of eſtimation. As an orator, in every thing that did not require an appeal to the paſſions, he ſhewed himſelf a maſter: then only he failed. Few judges deliver themſelves with more propriety than him; his language being dignified, and his manner, perhaps, ſomewhat too authoritative.

The *borough* intereſt of his family, added to a matrimonial alliance with that of the late Earl Bathurſt, at length procured him a ſilk gown, the place of a Welch judge, and even elevated him to the coif, while yet a very young man. He was accordingly called to the degree of ſergeant at law, on being appointed one of the juſtices of the court of King's Bench.

In this capacity his abilities had full play, as he poſſeſſes great quickneſs of perception, readily foreſees the conſequences of facts, and anticipates the drift of an argument at the firſt glance; but, like the great lawyer * whom he has been ambitious of copying, he is ſometimes too haſty in drawing his concluſions.

As ſoon as he aſſumed the ermine, he attracted the particular attention of Lord Mansfield, and although the youngeſt judge that was ever pro-

* Lord Mansfield.

moted

moted to the bench, yet his opinion had always more influence with the Chief Juſtice than that of any of his colleagues.

This judge has, at times, been accuſed of ſomewhat bordering on petulance of diſpoſition, which has led him into rather unpleaſant altercations. An inſtance of this occurred at the famous trial of the Dean of St. Aſaph, when, after puſhing his oppoſition to his quondam pupil, Mr. Erſkine, to threats and defiance, he at length ſuffered him to ſet his authority at nought, and even allowed him to proceed in the interrogatories the judge had ſo ſtrenuouſly oppoſed.

When Lord Mansfield was about to retire, he exerted the remains of his once-powerful intereſt to procure the nomination of Buller, and is even ſaid to have retained his poſt, on this very account, after he had been diſabled, by his infirmities, from performing its duties.

Some time ſince, Sir Francis exhibited an inclination to retire from the King's Bench, and propoſed an exchange for a ſeat in the Common Pleas, but difficulties then occurred, which deferred the accompliſhment of his deſire. He was then ſecond in the King's Bench, and had he removed during the life of Judge Gould, he muſt have ſat as third only in the Common Pleas; however, on the death of that truly venerable and honeſt man, his wiſhes were fully gratified.

He was lately placed at the head of the Special Commiſſion for trying the ſtate priſoners at Maidſtone,

ſtone, and he muſt be allowed by all candid men to have conducted himſelf with great moderation. A circumſtance happened on that occaſion which gave the judge an opportunity of exhibiting his impartiality; we mean the diſcovery of the letter written by the Rev. Mr. Young, ſon of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture; of which we ſhall not ſay more, as he is now under proſecution by the Attorney-general.

The compliments paid by Sir F. to Mr. Fox, the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Suffolk, and other noblemen and gentlemen in Oppoſition, have drawn down upon his head the abuſe of ſome of the Miniſterial papers; and by a ſtrange fatality, the great lawyer, formerly ſuſpected of leaning towards deſpotiſm, is conſidered by them as at preſent too little attached to prerogative.

Sir Francis reſides at his country-ſeat in a manner worthy the imitation of his brethren of the long robe. Unbending from the reſtraint of the coif, he lives without oſtentation; but his table is a hoſpitable one, and he pays every attention to his gueſts. Gay, facetious, liberal in his converſation and opinions, he deſpiſes the petty prejudices of the day, and proves that he has conſidered mankind, rather in the character of a philoſopher than a lawyer.

Much to his honour he has improved great portions of the waſte land in his neighbourhood, and when theſe are brought into a ſtate of cultivation, he

he builds cottages, and portions them out into little farms, at eaſy rents.

Thus, while he is benefiting the preſent age, he is alſo creating a noble fortune for his poſterity!

JOHN WOLCOTT, M.D.

THIS gentleman, better known by his poetical appellation of *Peter Pindar*, is a native of Dodbrook, near Kingſbridge, in that part of Devonſhire which has been called the Garden of England. He was educated, we believe, at Kingſbridge, near which he was born. The ſchoolmaſter of that town, an exceeding good ſcholar, and a man of moſt amiable manners, was a quaker.

The uncle of our bard being a ſingle man, and eſtabliſhed at Fowey, in Cornwall, as Surgeon and Apothecary, took his nephew, when young, with a view to his ſucceeding him in buſineſs. Here he acquired a tolerable ſhare of medical knowledge; and was in great eſteem with his kinſman, and the neighbourhood. At his leiſure hours he cultivated his mind by the peruſal of the beſt modern writers; and improved himſelf conſiderably in the art of drawing, to which he ſhewed an early propenſity.

On the appointment of Sir William Trelawney to be Governor of Jamaica, about the year 1769,

Mr. Wolcott felt a ſtrong inclination to accompany him thither, eſpecially as that gentleman was a diſtant relation of his own, and a great friend to the family. He, accordingly, preſſed his uncle, not only to give his conſent to the project, but alſo to ſolicit the favour from Sir William.

The old gentleman was at firſt extremely concerned at this turn in his nephew's mind, which was a complete overthrow of his favourite ſcheme reſpecting him, and alſo deprived himſelf of a moſt uſeful aſſiſtant. Remonſtrances, however, were vain; and, therefore, with the greateſt good nature, he waited upon the Governor, and obtained his requeſt that the young adventurer, who had now qualified himſelf for the medical walk, and received the degree of M.D. ſhould make one in his ſuite.

In the courſe of the voyage the ſhip touched at Madeira, where Peter, enchanted with the beauties which nature ſo luxuriantly exhibits in that iſland, wrote ſome exquiſite ſonnets. On his arrival at Jamaica, he practiſed as a phyſician, and was actually nominated Phyſician general to the iſland. A circumſtance, however, occurred that diverted him, for ſome time, from his medical career, and threw him into the arms of a profeſſion, for which few men were ever leſs qualified.

The incumbent of a living in Jamaica happened to pay the laſt tribute to nature not long after the Doctor ſettled there. Whether his practice had not been ſufficiently lucrative, or what other motive

tive might have actuated him, we know not, but certain it is, he looked upon the vacant rectory with a wiſhful eye. The phyſician of the body, accordingly, commenced phyſician of the ſoul, and actually officiated for a conſiderable time in this capacity, reading the prayers of the church of England, and preaching occaſionally *.

On his return, he repaired to the place of his former reſidence, and after living there ſome time, removed to Truro, where he practiſed during ſeveral years as a phyſician, with great credit and ſucceſs. His uncle then died, and left him nearly two thouſand pounds.

The doctor's ſatirical vein ſhewed itſelf on various occaſions in Cornwall; particularly in ſome humorous jokes, which he played off upon the late Mr. Roſewarne, of Truro, and other gentlemen of that neighbourhood. He was alſo engaged in ſome troubleſome and expenſive lawſuits; one of which was with the corporation of Truro, relative to their right of putting upon him a pariſh apprentice. In conſequence of theſe diſputes, he found that part of the world diſagreeable, and therefore reſolved to

* In order to remove every ſuſpicion of *intruſion*, it is but juſt here to remark, that Dr. W. was regularly ordained by the Biſhop of London. On the death of his Excellency Sir Wm. Trelawney, he returned to England along with Lady Trelawney, in his majeſty's frigate the Leoſtoffe, Captain Carterett, and having put into Teneriffe, the Doctor reſided ſome time with the Governor, in conſequence of which, that iſland became the ſcene of ſeveral of his ſonnets.

quit it for a ſphere more congenial to his talents and diſpoſition.

During his reſidence in this county, the Doctor had an opportunity of bringing forward to the world an eminent natural genius, who otherwiſe might have been buried in total oblivion, or, at the moſt, have become a ſign-painter in his native country. The perſon we allude to is JOHN OPIE, whoſe rude drawings in common chalk, eſpecially likeneſſes, our Doctor viewed with ſome curioſity and admiration in his rides through the village of St. Anne, where Opie was a pariſh apprentice to one Wheeler, a houſe carpenter.

Theſe drawings were ſo ſuperior to what could be expected in ſuch a place, and from ſuch a perſon, that the phyſician was induced to become his inſtructor and his patron. He accordingly furniſhed him with materials, and gave him leſſons, by which he profited in a manner that ſurpriſed and delighted the benevolent tutor. Having made a rapid progreſs, Opie went to Exeter, where he acquired ſome knowledge of oil painting. From that city he removed to London, and under Sir Joſhua Reynolds became one of the moſt eminent artiſts of the age.

Of the Doctor's poetical productions while he was engaged in the practice of phyſic, we have ſeen only a ſingle ſpecimen, but that is an excellent one, and we truſt our readers will be pleaſed with us for inſerting it in this place.

In the year 1776, when Mr. Polwhele, well known

nown by his various publications, was at Truro-ſchool, he had given to him for an evening exerciſe, to be tranſlated into Engliſh, the following beautiful Latin epigram on ſleep :

Somne levis, quamquem certiſſima mortis imago,
Conſortem cupio te, tamen eſſe tori :
Alma quies, optata veni ; nam, ſic, ſine vitâ
Vivere, quam ſuave eſt ; ſic, ſine morte, mori.

Of this epigram the doctor was requeſted to give a tranſlation, which he produced in a few minutes, as follows :

Come, gentle ſleep, attend thy vot'ry's prayer,
And tho' death's image, to my couch repair ;
How ſweet, thus lifeleſs, yet with life to lie,
Thus, without dying, O how ſweet to die !

Our author's firſt literary production was an "*Epiſtle to the Reviewers*," 4to. 1782, a truly laughable piece of ſatire, and certainly diſcharged againſt fair game. His next performance was "*Lyric Odes* "*to the Royal Academicians*," 1785, in which is exhibited a happy mixture of wit, taſte, and elegance, but at the ſame time it muſt be allowed, that ſome of the criticiſms, particularly thoſe reſpecting the paintings of Mr. Weſt, are not altogether candid.

In the year following, he publiſhed another ſet of odes to the members of the Royal Academy, bearing the ſame characteriſtics. About the ſame time he produced a performance of more originality and boldneſs. This was the *Louſiad*, a mock heroic poem, abounding in wit, humour, and ſtrength.

The foundation on which our Satiriſt erected this lively piece, was as follows :—His Majeſty one evening at ſupper obſerved a human hair upon his plate, among ſome green peas. This offenſive object occaſioned a decree to be iſſued forth, that all the cooks, ſcullions, &c. in the royal kitchen, ſhould have their heads ſhaved. Great murmurings were excited by this mandate ; but the law, like that of the Medes and Perſians, was irrevocable.

On this incident, Peter formed his exquiſite production ; only changing the hair *, by virtue of the *licentia poetica*, to a living animal.

His next production was an epiſtle to JAMES BOSWELL, Eſq. the ſelf-ſufficient attendant upon Dr. Johnſon in his tour to the Hebrides. This was followed by "BOZZI and PIOZZI," in which the folly of tittle tattle biographers is expoſed in the happieſt manner.

The greateſt ſucceſs now attended our author's publications. Never did any ſatiriſt diſplay ſuch various excellence. Thoſe who diſapproved of his ſentiments, and were offended at his freedom and want of reſpect for authority, could not read his poems with unmoved muſcles. To give a catalogue of his numerous writings would be needleſs. There can be no occaſion to ſpecify at length what is univerſally known, and as univerſally admired. Though our author has ſhone moſt conſpicuouſly as a ſatiriſt, (and here, indeed, his ſplendour has been of an

* We are aſſured, from undoubted authority, that it was, literally, a *louſe !*

extra-

extraordinary brilliancy), yet the reader of his ſonnets will ſometimes be diſpoſed to regret his having devoted ſo much of his time and genius to temporary and perſonal ſubjects.

The admirers of poetical elegance, may laugh at our bard's pleaſant tales, and whimſical deſcriptions; but they will feel a more exquiſite ſenſation on peruſing the tender and ſentimental effuſions of his pen.

The Doctor, we underſtand, lately ſuperintended a new edition of Pilkington's Dictionary of Painters, to which he made ſome additions, particularly the character of the famous landſcape painter, Richard Wilſon. Before we conclude, it may not be amiſs to remark that, in his converſation, our Satiriſt does not exhibit either that facetiouſneſs or acerbity, ſo eminently diſplayed in his poetical compoſitions.

Neither ought we to finiſh this article without obſerving, that Meſſrs Robinſons, Golding, and Walker, agreed, in 1795, to pay Dr. W. an annuity of 250*l.* per annum, for the copy-right of his works. Unfortunately, owing to ſome obſcurity in drawing up the agreement, it has been contended by one party, that it implies only thoſe of the Poet *already* publiſhed, while the others wiſh to include all that may hereafter be given to the world, by the facetious Peter.

We are ſorry to add, that an action at common law, has been ſucceeded by a chancery ſuit; and without entering into the merits of a queſtion, on

which ſome *future* Chancellor may decide, in the courſe of the *nineteenth century*, we moſt cordially recommend an amicable adjuſtment, and immediate compromiſe to all parties. What a pity, that the rapacious harpies of the law ſhould be permitted to ſwallow up the patrimony of the Muſes!

Our poet, we believe, once more practiſes as a phyſician. Lately recovered from an *aſthma*, he has acquired an intimate acquaintance with the theory of that diſeaſe, and is himſelf a living inſtance, that, with ſkilful management, it is not fatal, even in its laſt and worſt ſtages. He has alſo minutely inveſtigated the ſtructure of that delicate organ, the human ear.

This is a ſpecies of knowledge neither to be obtained on the ſummit of Parnaſſus, nor drawn from the fountain Hippocrene; but there is a certain univerſality in genius, which, indeed, conſtitutes one of its chief characteriſtics.

W.

JOHN MOORE, D.D.

LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,

Primate of all England.

SOME of the ableſt and beſt prelates of whom the Church of England has to boaſt, originally ſprung from very humble ſituations in ſociety. The catalogue of her primates, in particular, almoſt entirely conſiſts of perſons of lowly extraction. Cranmer, Parker, Grindal, and Whitgift, the great

pillars

pillars of the church eſtabliſhment, after the ſeparation from the papal yoke, were all of a mean deſcent, if, as in the vulgar phraſeology of common life, poverty and meanneſs be ſynonymous.

Archbiſhop Abbot was educated and maintained by public charity.

Laud's father was a weaver; ſo was Tillotſon's; and neither of them appears to have been in circumſtances to provide for his ſon.

Potter was a ſervitor in his college; and both Herring and Secker were more indebted to good fortune, than to family connexions, for their elevation to the epiſcopal bench.

Nor has this been the caſe only with the Church of England. The moſt eminent of the Roman pontiffs ſprung from obſcurity; and the poor people in Italy, have been accuſtomed to excite in their children an application to ſtudy, by relating to them the ſtory of Pope Sixtus the Fifth. That great man was the ſon of a cottager; and on his elevation to the *tiara*, he uſed to ſay in contempt of the paſquinades that were made upon his birth, that he was (*domus natus illuſtri* *) "born of an illuſtrious houſe, "for the ſun-beams paſſing through the broken "walls and ragged roof, *illuſtrated* every corner of "the paternal hut!"

Dr. Moore, the preſent Archbiſhop of Canterbury, is a native of Glouceſter, where his father was a butcher, in ſuch low circumſtances, that he

* This is a play upon words, and unfortunately loſes much of its point by tranſlation.

could

could not afford the expence neceſſary to give his ſon that liberal education which he both deſired and deſerved. He was, therefore, brought up at the free-ſchool of his native city; and on account of his docility of behaviour, and promiſing talents, ſome friends procured for him a humble ſituation in Pembroke college, Oxford, whence he afterwards removed to Chriſt-church.

While at college, he applied himſelf to his ſtudies with conſiderable aſſiduity, and acquired great reſpect by his modeſt demeanour, the regularity of his conduct, and his claſſical attainments.

He had, however, with all theſe qualifications, no higher proſpect before him than that of a country curacy, till one of thoſe lucky circumſtances happened, which ſometimes occur in the great game of human life, and conduct the obſcureſt individual to the moſt unlikely of all ſituations.

The late Duke of Marlborough affected to love the ſtudy of mathematics; and, in conſequence of that propenſity, Mr. Bliſs, Savilian profeſſor of geometry, and aſtronomer-royal, was frequently at Blenheim. In one of his viſits there, the Duke aſked the Profeſſor to recommend him a young man, qualified to act as private tutor to the Marquis of Blandford. Bliſs, whoſe ideas never went beyond the preſent circumſtance, had no thoughts of his own ſon, but was puzzling his brains to pitch upon ſome perſon that might anſwer the Duke's purpoſe. At the time he was thus ruminating,

nating, young Moore happened to be ſtrolling in the Park, and as he was of the ſame college with the Profeſſor, who reſpected his character, he mentioned him to his Grace, as one well qualified to undertake the charge.

In conſequence of this recommendation, Mr. Moore was ſent for, and very readily accepted the offer which was made him. But the pride of the Ducheſs would not permit her to allow her ſon's inſtructor to dine in her preſence; and therefore Mr. Moore was obliged to put up with a place at the ſecond table. The mortification ariſing from this circumſtance, perhaps, was not then very great; but it is remarkable, that this haughty dame, when ſhe became a widow, actually courted the very ſame tutor, to receive her hand!

Few young men in Mr. Moore's circumſtances would have ſcrupled how to act on ſuch an occaſion. His prudence, however, made him foreſee, that no real good could well reſult to him from an acceptance of the propoſal; and he accordingly declined it. This generous conduct endearing him to his pupil and the whole family, every exertion was made to promote his advancement in the church.

As a firſt ſtep, the young Duke ſettled an annuity of 400*l.* upon Dr. Moore, and obtained for him, in 1769, a golden prebend, in the cathedral of Durham, to which a valuable living was annexed. In 1771, his Grace perſonally ſolicited for him, of the King, the deanery of Canterbury,

and

and obtained it; in 1775, he was made Biſhop of Bangor.

On the death of Dr. Frederick Cornwallis, in 1783, the ſee of Canterbury was offered to the two greateſt prelates that then ornamented the Engliſh church, Lowth and Hurd. The former declined the tranſlation, from his great age, and the latter from his attachment to his own dioceſe of Worceſter. It is reported, but upon what ground we will not venture to ſay, that his Majeſty, on this, deſired each of thoſe great men to recommend one of the biſhops to him, as the fitteſt in their judgment to fill the metropolitan chair; and that they both, without having any knowledge of each other's opinion, mentioned Dr. Moore.

To have ſuppreſſed this anecdote in this place, would have been wrong, becauſe the ſtory has been very generally reported, and it *may* be true. As for our part, we are inclined to believe that the real fact is otherwiſe, and that his advancement to the primacy was the effect of the ſame patronage which firſt raiſed him in the church. Moſt undoubtedly he had not evinced any of thoſe ſtrong powers, which could have produced ſo remarkable a predilection in his favour in the minds of his learned brethren.

Let the matter be as it may, Dr. Moore obtained the *ne plus ultra* of eccleſiaſtical dignity; and his conduct has been ſo decorous as to reflect great honour upon himſelf and his patrons. The ſee of

Canterbury

Canterbury requires a very temperate perſon; and his grace has exactly ſteered that courſe which his illuſtrious predeceſſors, Tillotſon and Secker, purſued, with credit to themſelves, and benefit to the church.

He has wiſely avoided taking any active part in political diſputes; neither has he adopted any ſteps to inflame the minds of diſſenters, on the one hand, nor to alarm the friends of orthodoxy, on the other.

When any meaſure has been agitated before the Houſe of Peers, in which the intereſts of the church were concerned, his grace has generally been an able, but moderate ſpeaker. During his primacy, the extenſion of toleration, and epiſcopacy, have taken place; for the Catholics have been greatly relieved in England, and biſhops have been appointed in America. Both theſe circumſtances had his grace's countenance and ſupport. He has, moreover, been the conſtant friend of merit; and numerous acts of generous patronage might be recorded in his praiſe.

Men of obſcure origin too frequently affect to forget the lowly ſtock whence they ſprung. An elevation for which they were no way prepared by family connexions, generally turns their heads dizzy with falſe pride; and then a view of their humble deſcent becomes offenſive. Former friendſhips and ſituations are conſequently wiped out of their remembrance, and poor relations are carefully ſhunned, or caſt into ſhade, to ſubſiſt on a

pittance

pittance privately beſtowed, that they may not tarniſh the dignity of the great perſonage to whom they happen to be allied. He who riſes ſuperior to this common failing, is a true philoſopher, and worthy of our eſteem.

Dr. Moore no ſooner began to taſte the ſweets of proſperity, than he eagerly haſtened to communicate a portion of them to his family; and as he advanced in preferment, his attention to it, and particularly his father, who had failed in buſineſs, was proportionably encreaſed. This is an eulogy far more honourable than that derived from the moſt illuſtrious talents, or the moſt ſplendid actions.

The Archbiſhop has only printed two ſermons; the one preached on the 30th of January, 1777, before the Lords, and the other on the faſt-day, in 1781.

His grace married a ſiſter of Lord Auckland, by whom he has ſeveral children.

Θ.

ARTHUR MURPHY, ESQ.

THAT conſtellation, which once illuminated the literary hemiſphere with ſuch ſplendor, and in which JOHNSON ſhone with the moſt diſtinguiſhed luſtre, has, for ſome time, been reduced to a very ſmall number of luminaries.

The veteran who now calls for our conſideration, long moved in this illuſtrious circle with conſider-

able

able reputation, and enjoyed a degree of applauſe, on account of his productions, which has been the lot of but few. He has, however, ſeen the greateſt ornaments of literature cut off, and hardly any others worthy notice, ariſing in their place. He has beheld the new philoſophy ſpreading its glare wide around, and obtaining admiration; and he has lived to witneſs a new theatrical taſte, uſurping the province of the genuine drama, and threatening complete deſtruction to one of the fineſt branches of poeſy.

He has alſo exiſted long enough to witneſs a revolution, not only in matters of a political nature, but in manners, ſentiment, and amuſements. Surely ſuch a man, ſtill retaining all his faculties in their priſtine vigour, cannot contemplate the ſurrounding ſcene, in which he is nearly iſolated, without feeling all his ſenſibilities wounded! But let us wave reflection, and proceed to narrative.

Mr. MURPHY, the ſon of a merchant of Dublin, was born near Elphin, Dec. 27, 1730. He came to England, while a child, and was ſent ſoon after to the Jeſuit's College at St. Omer's, in which learned ſeminary he obtained a very extenſive knowledge of the Latin language.

His uncle, Mr. Jeffery French, deſigning him for trade, he was placed firſt with a merchant in Cork, and then with a banker in Lombard-ſtreet. But the Muſes ſoon attracted him from the bill-book and ledger; and inſtead of applying himſelf to commercial ſtudies, all his attention was devoted

to

to the writings of the moſt elegant authors, ancient and modern.

The compting-houſe was, of courſe, ſoon entirely abandoned; and, with a very ſcanty pittance of this world's ſtore, he entered himſelf, in 1750, a member of the Society of Gray's Inn, and became an adventurer in literature, partly from neceſſity, and partly from choice.

At firſt, indeed, he formed the deſign of adopting the ſtage as a profeſſion, but after two or three eſſays, one of which was in the character of Othello, he found himſelf better qualified to *write* plays than to *act* them.

His firſt literary undertaking that we know of was a periodical work called "The Gray's Inn Journal," which he commenced in 1752, and continued for two years *. This work was not without merit, or even celebrity, and became the means of introducing the author to the acquaintance of Dr. Samuel Johnſon: as the anecdote is curious, it may be worth relating in this place.

Mr. Murphy was on a viſit at the country-houſe of Foote, when a paper was wanted for his journal. Being ill-diſpoſed for compoſition, the Engliſh Ariſtophanes produced a new French miſcellany, in which there was an Eaſtern apologue that appeared to be remarkably ingenious. This pleaſed our author ſo well, that he tranſlated it at once, and ſent it to his printer. On his return to town,

* We are aſſured that he only received a guinea and a half a week for his work.

he

he found that this tale had been taken by the French writer from Johnſon's Rambler without acknowledgment. Hurt at this unintentional plagiariſm, Murphy waited upon Johnſon, and made his apology. The moraliſt was eaſily pacified; and an acquaintance commenced, which continued till Johnſon's death.

At the beginning of the preſent reign, Murphy enliſted as a party-writer, in vindication of Lord Bute's adminiſtration; and though his labours were but feeble, in compariſon with the keen attacks of Oppoſition, he was handſomely rewarded by thoſe whoſe cauſe he eſpouſed.

At this time he was in habits of intimacy with Mr. Wilkes; and though they were engaged in a fierce paper war, the former in the *Auditor*, and the latter in the *North Britain*, yet they knew not, for ſome time, that they were fighting with each other. On the diſcovery of the ſecret, Wilkes's partizans entered into a reſolution to oppoſe any new piece which Mr. Murphy might bring forward on the ſtage. Accordingly, when our author's farce of "What we muſt all come to," was performed, a violent party-ſpirit manifeſted itſelf; and the piece, though free from any political alluſions, was *damned!* Some years afterwards it was again produced, under the title of "Three Weeks after Marriage," when it received unmixed applauſe, and has continued a favourite entertainment ever ſince.

Murphy expoſtulated with Wilkes on the con-

duct of his friends, and the patriot not only diſavowed any ſhare in their proceedings, but promiſed, that ſhould any future occaſion offer, he would himſelf come forward with his party in the offended bard's ſupport.

As a political writer, Mr. Murphy never roſe to any diſtinguiſhed eminence, otherwiſe we ſuppoſe he would have obtained either preferment or a penſion. The only thing with which he has been favoured, as far as we know, is the poſt of Commiſſioner of Bankrupts, which he held till the appointment of Lord Thurlow to the great ſeal; and when the preſent Chancellor came into office, he replaced his old friend upon the liſt.

Though regularly called to the bar by the ſociety of Lincoln's Inn, after a long ſtruggle, he never obtained any extenſive practice, nor any ſhare of credit on account of legal abilities. He, however, went the Norfolk circuit for a conſiderable time.

As a writer, he has ſhone moſt in dramatic poetry; and it may be ſaid of him, what few who have written for the ſtage can boaſt, that he has been equally ſucceſsful in farce, comedy, and tragedy. All his pieces evince great knowledge of the world, and a minute acquaintance with the human character, combined with that livelineſs of fancy which is eſſentially neceſſary to produce the ſenſations of mirth.

In his tragedies, one remarks a happy delineation of character, joined to a due mixture of the pathetic and heroic, clothed with language at once appropriate,

propriate, eaſy, and elegant. So great has been the ſucceſs of his plays, that though the receipts of the *former* Drury-lane theatre never amounted to three hundred pounds a night, he gained eight hundred pounds by his "Grecian Daughter;" and very near the ſame ſum by "His Way to keep Him."

Mr. Murphy's intimacy with the firſt geniuſes of the age tended greatly to improve his taſte, and, conſequently, to render his productions elegant. Such an aſſociation is of wonderful benefit to a riſing and emulous writer. In the company of a Johnſon and a Burke, a man poſſeſſed of any portion of genius could not fail to improve his mind. To have been in habits of friendſhip with theſe perſons, required no ſmall portion of literary, and moral merit.

Mr. Murphy had the credit of introducing Johnſon to the acquaintance of Mr. Thrale. He was alſo a member of the club which the former inſtituted in Eſſex-ſtreet.

In 1762, he wrote an Eſſay on the Life and Genius of Henry Fielding, prefixed to the complete edition of that writer's works, for which he received a conſiderable ſum. On this occaſion he behaved in a manner which few biographers will, perhaps, be diſpoſed to imitate. A conſiderable quantity of letters and anecdotes were put into his hands, by Sir John Fielding, and others, to elucidate the memoir. On examining theſe communications, he found that many of them were well adapted to

amuſe the public, but at the ſame time tended to tarniſh the memory of the deceaſed. He, therefore, ſuppreſſed them; and gave to his production the qualified title of an eſſay. He followed a ſimilar line of conduct with reſpect to the life of his friend Johnſon, which was publiſhed in 1791, and for which he was handſomely rewarded.

About the ſame time appeared his tranſlation of Tacitus, in four quarto volumes. In this work he had been engaged for many years; and there is a circumſtance reſpecting it which does Mr. Murphy infinite honour. Not long before the publication, a nobleman of high rank and conſequence in the political world ſignified to the tranſlator his wiſh to have it dedicated to him. Murphy, however, had previouſly determined to inſcribe his labours to the man whom he moſt eſteemed, the immortal BURKE, and he accordingly made a noble ſacrifice of intereſt, to friendſhip!

His laſt literary production was a tragedy never performed, entitled "Arminius."

Mr. Murphy's claſſical knowledge and taſte appear to great advantage in his Latin poems, particularly in a verſion of Gray's Elegy; and we remember to have ſeen an elegant tranſlation of Addiſon's Letter from Italy, written by him, but never printed.

Mr. Murphy uſually reſides at Hammerſmith. He is a very entertaining companion, abounding in anecdotes, of which he is engagingly communicative

cative in company. His character is highly reſpectable; and he enjoys the intimacy of ſome of the firſt perſonages in the kingdom. W.

EARL OF DARTMOUTH.

WILLIAM, Earl of Dartmouth, ſucceeded his father in the year 1713, being then only twenty-five years of age. In 1755 he eſpouſed a rich heireſs of the name of Nichols, by whom he got a very conſiderable addition to his fortune.

His Lordſhip being of a pious turn of mind, his conduct has been chiefly marked by an attention to religious duties, for which, as well as correctneſs of manners, he has been more diſtinguiſhed than moſt men of the ſame rank. Notwithſtanding this, he has not entirely abſtracted himſelf from public affairs, for we find him at times filling ſome of the moſt conſiderable offices in the ſtate.

His Lordſhip connected himſelf early in life with the Rockingham party, and when they came into power in 1765, he was made Firſt Lord of Trade, and ſworn of the privy-council.

He, however, does not ſeem to have continued ſtaunch to his old friends, for although he went out with them, yet about the year 1772 he was induced to accept of the poſt of Secretary of State, and ſoon after removed to the head of the board of trade. In this ſituation he took a warm and de-

cided part againſt the Americans, which recommended him ſo much to his Majeſty, that in 1775, he had the cuſtody of the Privy Seal confided to him, which office he retained during the whole remaining term of Lord North's adminiſtration.

This noble Lord, who, along with the late Baron Smythe, was the chief ſupport of the *evangelical preaching* at the Lock-chapel, is by many conſidered a methodiſt. It is, therefore, ſomewhat remarkable that a man of his retired and ſerious turn of mind, ſhould engage in the buſy career of politics. Soon after his diſmiſſion, he joined the coalition, and by them was appointed Lord Steward of the Houſehold, which place he retained about nine months; and when his friends were driven out of power, he retired with them, and has continued ever ſince in the obſcurity of private life.

During the ſtruggle about the regency he took the ſide of the prince, for which his Highneſs ſhewed his gratitude, by appointing his ſon, Lord Lewiſham, Warden of the Stannaries of Cornwall.

Lord Dartmouth is eſteemed a man of ſenſe, and was conſidered as a tolerable ſpeaker in the Houſe of Lords. In private life, he bears the character of a good huſband, a good parent, and a kind maſter; and is, on the whole, one of the moſt inoffenſive among the nobility.

So early as the year 1755, we find the late Mr. James Hervey, author of the "Meditations," &c. one of his Lordſhip's intimates, and ſpeaking highly of his pious diſpoſition.

He

He was alſo the particular friend of the late Counteſs of Huntingdon, Mr. George Whitefield, and all the eminent ſupporters of Calviniſtical Methodiſm. It muſt be allowed, that, as a *private* man, he has borne himſelf with an uniform character through life; and with the *profeſſion* of piety, has invariably connected the *practice* of it.

Lord Dartmouth has a numerous family; no leſs than eight ſons and one daughter.

THE HON. AND REV. DR. SHUTE BARRINGTON,

LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

JOHN SHUTE BARRINGTON, who was created an Engliſh Viſcount in the year 1720, was the intimate friend of the immortal LOCKE, and, like him, a firm aſſertor of the liberties of mankind, an acute metaphyſician, and an able expoſitor and defender of the ſacred ſcriptures. His Lordſhip died the latter end of 1734, and left behind him ſix ſons, five of whom have arrived at great eminence in the profeſſions of the army, navy, the law, and the church.

The ſubject of our preſent notice was the youngeſt of theſe, and was born about the year 1732. He received his education at Eton ſchool, whence he was removed to the univerſity of Oxford, where he was entered of Merton College; but he afterwards went to Chriſt-church, of which he became a ſtudent.

He entered into holy orders in 1756, and the year following took his degree of Maſter of Arts,

In 1761, he was appointed Chaplain to the King, and next year was promoted to be a Canon of Chriſt-church. June 10th, 1762, the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him; and in 1766, on the death of Dr. Taylor, he was preſented to a reſidentiary canonry in the cathedral of St. Paul.

In the year 1769, he was made Biſhop of Landaff; and while in that ſtation he brought a bill into the Houſe of Lords, the object of which went to check the encreaſing evil of matrimonial infidelity, by preventing perſons divorced by parliament, from marrying thoſe with whom they had been criminal. His Lordſhip obſerved, that many acts of adultery had been committed ſolely with the intention to obtain ſeparation, in order to form new alliances; and, therefore, he was deſirous of putting a legal barrier againſt that licentious practice. In this attempt he was ſupported by the opinion of the ableſt lawyers and divines in the kingdom. His laudable deſign, however, fell to the ground; though had it taken place, much good would have been effected by it, and the long catalogue of divorces would, perhaps, have been drawn within a very narrow compaſs.

In the year 1782, his Lordſhip was tranſlated to the ſee of Saliſbury, where he diſtinguiſhed himſelf greatly by his liberality in repairing and beautifying the noble cathedral of that dioceſe; and on the death of Biſhop Thurlow, in 1791, he was removed to Durham, with the approbation of every well-wiſher to the church and ſtate.

In

In his epiſcopal capacity, his Lordſhip has conducted himſelf with great dignity of manners, and with the moſt exemplary attention to the duties of his office.

He has been very watchful over the behaviour of his clergy; and has ſhewn a moſt commendable circumſpection with reſpect to the character and qualifications of candidates for holy orders.

With a laudable zeal to promote the ſtudy of ſacred literature, he beſtows premiums upon ſuch as excel in the Hebrew and Greek languages. This, we believe, is quite a novel practice; and, doubtleſs, were it generally followed, it would not only create a ſpirit of emulation in young perſons preparing for the church, but would, moreover, render moſt of them aſhamed of appearing before the Biſhop, or Archdeacon, without a tolerable ſhare of ſacred learning.

One anecdote of his Lordſhip, does high honour to his liberality and his piety. A relation of Mrs. Barrington having experienced ſome embarraſſments and diſappointments in life, wiſhed to amend his ſituation (being a military officer), by entering into the church, thinking that the Biſhop would provide handſomely for him. On making the neceſſary application to his kinſman, he was aſked what preferment would ſatisfy him. To this home queſtion he readily anſwered, that about 500*l.* a year would make him a happy man. "You ſhall "have it," ſaid his Lordſhip, "but not out of the "patrimony of the church. I will not deprive a

"worthy

" worthy and regular divine to provide for a neceſ-
" ſitous relation. You ſhall have the ſum you
" mention yearly out of my own pocket."

The Biſhop has publiſhed ſeveral ſingle ſermons, and ſome epiſcopal charges, which have been greatly eſteemed. He alſo contributed ſome valuable notes to Mr. Bowyer's " Conjectures on the New Teſtament," and he has given the world an edition of his father's " Miſcellanea Sacra," in three volumes, 8vo. with many additions and corrections.

Though a ſupporter of adminiſtration, he has conducted himſelf in parliament with great moderation.

His Lordſhip, in 1761, married Lady Diana Beauclerk, who died in 1768; and in 1770, choſe for his ſecond wife, a Miſs Gueſt. By the firſt alliance, he obtained the intereſt of a very powerful family, and by the ſecond, a large fortune. W.

MR. KING,

THE COMEDIAN.

THE character of an actor, in private life, has been uſually beheld, throughout all Europe, with a certain degree of coolneſs, bordering on contempt. In Spain, we believe, comedians are not admitted to *confeſſion*, at this very day; and it is well known, that in France, previouſly to the abolition, or at leaſt the *limitation* of the Monarchy, they did not

enjoy

enjoy the rites of ſepulture, or, in other words, were not permitted to participate in "a Chriſtian burial." In this country, illiberal prejudices are happily of leſs avail, and the names of Shakſpeare and of Garrick have contributed not a little to ſhield the whole profeſſion from indiſcriminate contumely.

The object of this memoir, known to all lovers of the drama by the familiar name of "Tom King," ſeems to have received a better education than the bulk of the fraternity. His family, which was reſpectable, ſent him to a good grammar-ſchool in the country, whence, at a proper period, he was moved to London, and articled to an attorney.

He ſoon, however, became captivated with the ſtage; and quitting his profeſſion, accompanied Shuter, and joined a ſtrolling company, about thirty miles from London. This, of courſe, irritated his parents, who, inſtead of endeavouring to reclaim, abandoned and left him to ſhift for himſelf. If Tate Wilkinſon is correct in his dates, Mr. King muſt now have been on the ſtage full half a century, for he tells us, that he played under Mr. Garrick in 1748.

Thoſe who have ſeen this excellent actor of late, will ſcarcely be induced to believe, that for many years after his firſt appearance he betook himſelf, almoſt excluſively, to tragedy. In 1748, he performed George Barnwell; and next year appeared in Dublin in the character of the Roman Father!

He at length obtained an engagement at Bath, where

where he contracted a friendſhip with Miſs Baker, at that time a celebrated dancer, and who is at preſent his wife.

His ſucceſs at Bath recommended him to the managers of Drury-lane, who employed him at a ſmall ſalary, and entruſted him only with inferior parts; nor could he, for ſome time, obtain any character in the leaſt ſuitable to his talents. He therefore quitted that theatre, repaired again to Ireland, and acted in a conſiderable number of comic characters, with great applauſe. He had, by this time, contrived to form a very reputable ſet of acquaintance in Dublin, and would probably have remained in that country, had he not foreſeen the diviſions which were likely to take place there, in theatrical concerns. He accordingly applied to Mr. Garrick, and the fame of his abilities having reached England before his offer, he was engaged at a genteel ſalary.

Garrick immediately brought him out in the character of *Tom*, in the "Conſcious Lovers;" in which, and many other comic ſituations, he obtained uncommon applauſe. But what raiſed his fame to the ſtandard at which it afterwards ſtood, was his inimitable performance of *Lord Ogleby*, in the "Clandeſtine Marriage," which he executed in ſo maſterly a ſtyle, as to obtain the moſt flattering attention, and greatly aſſiſt the run of that excellent comedy.

Garrick, it is ſaid, intended to play the part himſelf, but could not fix on a mode of acting it to his mind.

mind. On this he desired King to try, and was so pleased with the first specimen he gave at the rehearsal, that he declared, if he could support the same style throughout, it would be one of the first comic characters on the stage.

On the death of Mr. Powell, in 1765, Mr. King purchased his share of the Bristol theatre, which turned out profitable to him; and with his winter engagement at Drury-lane, produced a very handsome income. He sold it, however, a few years after, to Mr. Palmer, of the theatre at Bath (late of the post-office), and purchased the property of Sadler's Wells; but this not being so productive as he wished, he disposed of it to Mr. Wroughton.

When Mr. Sheridan and the other partners purchased Drury-lane house, that gentleman's inimitable play of "The School for Scandal" was brought out there. This afforded Mr. King a new opportunity of displaying his talents for comedy, in the character of *Sir Peter Teazle*; and when Mr. S. embarked so deeply in politics, as to prevent his attending the duty of the theatre, he delegated his power to King, and appointed him acting manager.

A little before this, Mr. K. had absented himself during a whole season from the stage; on his return, he wrote an interlude for his introduction, called "A dramatic Olio," which was well received. He has also written "Love at first Sight," a ballad-farce, acted at Drury-lane in 1765; and "Wit's last Stake," another farce, played at the same house in 1769.

But

But in the midſt of this proſperity, and after he had realized a handſome fortune, a paſſion, which he had long ſuppreſſed, broke out, and deſtroyed his pleaſing proſpects. While under Mr. Garrick's dominion, and a candidate for public favour, he diſcovered an inſurmountable propenſity to play; which, although cautioned againſt, he could not reſiſt, but loſt all his earnings at the gaming-table. One night, however, fortune ſmiled, and he gained ſo large a ſum as 2000l. On this he is ſaid to have immediately made a moſt ſolemn declaration, both to Garrick and his wife, "that he would never touch a dice-box again!" It has even been ſaid, that he executed a bond for a ſum of money to the former, under penalty of forfeiture in caſe he ever gamed. King kept his reſolution for many years, until, by the death of his friend "Davy," he perhaps deemed himſelf abſolved from his engagement. Having then an extenſive circle of genteel acquaintance, he was induced to enter himſelf, about the year 1784 or 1785, a member of the club at Miles's, merely from the love of ſociety, and fully ſecure, as he thought, againſt the allurements of play. He was, however, at laſt tempted; and loſing, at firſt, ſome ſmall ſums, became vexed, and ventured deeper, until that fortune he had been ſo long accumulating by his exertions was almoſt totally exhauſted. In conſequence of this, he parted with his pretty little villa at Hampton, and exchanged his houſe in Gerrard-ſtreet, for a ſmall one in Store-ſtreet, Bedford-ſquare.

Nor

Nor was the loſs of fortune the only diſappointment that enſued. He was, at that very time, in treaty with Dr. Ford for a ſhare of Drury-lane theatre; but this unlucky transfer of his property rendered him incapable of making good the payment. Some trifling diſpute having occurred, in conſequence of this, Mr. King, in anger, reſigned his two ſituations, as actor and manager, at Drury-lane theatre.

He was, however, under the neceſſity of relying once more on the ſtage for a maintenance; and accordingly, in 1788, he repaired to Dublin, the ſcene of his juvenile triumphs, where he was again received with all that warmth and enthuſiaſm ſo delectable to an old favourite.

On his return he performed a ſtipulated number of nights at Covent-garden theatre, both to the advantage of himſelf and the manager; and next ſeaſon he reſumed his ſituation at Drury-lane.

Actuated by motives of ſincere friendſhip, Mr. Smith, who had long quitted the ſtage, came to town laſt year, expreſsly on purpoſe to play *Charles* in the "School for Scandal," for his benefit; and the houſe, as might be expected, was, in the language of the theatre, "a bumper!"

Mr. King is undoubtedly the firſt comic actor the ſtage has poſſeſſed for many years, and alſo ſtands unrivalled in the happy art of delivering a lively prologue.

THE

THE HON. BROWNLOW NORTH,

LORD BISHOP OP WINCHESTER.

THIS reſpectable prelate is half-brother of the late Frederick, Earl of Guildford, the amiable but culpable miniſter of this country, in perhaps one of the moſt eventful periods of its hiſtory.

Brownlow was educated at Eton ſchool, whence he removed to Trinity college, Oxford, which he afterwards left for a fellowſhip of All-Souls.

Here he took his degree of LL.D. and on entering into holy orders, was preferred to a canonry of Chriſt-Church; in 1770, he was advanced to the Deanery of Canterbury, and appointed one of the king's Chaplains; the year following, he was conſecrated Biſhop of Litchfield and Coventry *.

In 1774, he was tranſlated and confirmed in the ſee of Worceſter; and in 1781, he was removed to Wincheſter.

In all the ſituations he has filled, his Lordſhip has obtained diſtinguiſhed reputation; and every church over which he has preſided, ranks his name in the catalogue of its moſt munificent prelates.

When he was Biſhop of Worceſter, he promoted that excellent inſtitution for the benefit of the widows and orphans of poor clergymen belonging

* Dr. North was Dean of Canterbury before he was twenty-nine years old, and Biſhop of Litchfield and Coventry at the age of thirty-three, being the youngeſt Proteſtant prelate ever conſecrated in England.

to

to his dioceſe, in aid of the charity derived to them from the muſic meeting, and alſo for the relief of the aged infirm incumbents of ſmall livings, and of poor curates with large families.

His Lordſhip's manner is highly dignified, yet condeſcending; he blends authority and watchfulneſs with tenderneſs and benevolence. He is juſtly regarded as the father of his dioceſe; and his charities, which are very extenſive, are judiciouſly adminiſtered.

His Lordſhip has invariably preſerved, through life, the eſteem of men of all parties and perſuaſions. During a long reſidence in Italy, whither he went on account of his health, he attracted the univerſal regard of the dignified clergy of the Roman communion. In ſhort, the ſuavity of his manners, and his elegant deportment, excited in many a high degree of reſpect for the Engliſh HIERARCHY.

Dr. North at one time took an active part in the great political queſtions of the day. In 1784, he ſupported Mr. Fox's celebrated India bill in the Houſe of Lords; and, during another important period, we find his name in every diviſion of the peers, in favour of the Prince of Wales' uncontrouled right to the Regency.

As Biſhop of the ſee of Wincheſter, he is Prelate of the Garter, the *inſignia* of which order are conſtantly worn by his Lordſhip.

He is now a widower, and has four daughters and two ſons.

MR. WILLIAM JACKSON, OF EXETER.

THIS elegant compoſer, and ingenious writer, was born at Exeter, in May, 1730. His father was an eminent grocer in that place, and afterwards maſter of the city workhouſe.

He gave his ſon a very liberal education; and perceiving that the bent of his genius lay towards muſic, he complied with his inclinations, and put him under the tuition of Mr. Travers, organiſt of the cathedral church of St. Peter, in Exeter, with whom he continued two years. After leaving Mr. Travers, Mr. Jackſon went to London, about the year 1748, where he became a pupil of Mr. Travers, organiſt of the King's chapel, and of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, with whom he alſo remained two years, and then returned to his native city, where he taught muſic for many years with great reputation. He alſo publiſhed ſeveral charming compoſitions, marked by the moſt chaſte conception, the moſt elegant taſte, and the moſt correct knowledge of the principles of harmony. In ſhort, all his pieces were received with applauſe, and ſtill rank very high in the muſical world.

Notwithſtanding his great and univerſally acknowledged merit in his profeſſion, he obtained no ſituation as an organiſt till Michaelmas, 1777, when he ſucceeded Mr. Richard Langdon as Subchanter, Organiſt, Lay-vicar, and Maſter of the Choriſters, in the cathedral of Exeter.

Mr.

Mr. Jackſon, early in life, married Miſs Bartlett, a milliner at Exeter, who is ſtill alive, and by whom he has had ſeveral children, three of whom, only, are now living—two ſons and a daughter. One of the former (the elder) went to India, and returned thence with a competent fortune, which he intended to enjoy in his native city, in the boſom of his family; but the appointment of an embaſſy to the court of Pekin, called him from his retirement into ſervice, and he accordingly accompanied Lord Macartney on that miſſion, and now reſides once more near Exeter. The youngeſt ſon living is employed at preſent at Turin, as ſecretary of legation, at that court.

After amuſing the circle of his friends with ſeveral ingenious pieces of his writing, in proſe and verſe, Mr. Jackſon appeared as a compoſer in the year 1755, and as an author in 1782; a liſt of his publications is ſubjoined. His firſt literary work was printed in two volumes, ſmall octavo, and entitled "Thirty Letters on various Subjects." Theſe formed a miſcellaneous collection on literature and ſcience, and evinced extenſive knowledge, united with an elegant taſte. On poetry, muſic, and painting, his opinions are allowed to be very ingenious, and have obtained general approbation. But in ſome reſpects he manifeſted ſomewhat of a paradoxical ſpirit, particularly in the inſtance of *ſpontaneous generation*, a notion which he attempted to illuſtrate, and revive from the oblivion in which it had ſo deſervedly ſunk. Theſe letters, on the

whole, raiſed our author's credit very high. It was not, however, till 1795, that he thought proper to publiſh a new edition of them, although they had been out of print for ſeveral years before. To that edition (being the third), which is in one volume, octavo, there are ſeveral additions and corrections.

In the year 1791, he publiſhed a pamphlet "On the preſent State of Muſic, in London," of which there was ſoon a ſecond edition.

During the laſt year, Mr. Jackſon added a ſecond volume to his Letters, under the title of "The Four Ages; with Eſſays on various Subjects." In this ingenious work he conſiders the four mythological ages as characteriſtic of ſo many diſtinct periods of the world, but in a different order from that in which the poets have placed them. Among the eſſays there is a moſt curious and entertaining one, on the character of Gainſborough the painter, of whom ſome whimſical anecdotes are given.

In the year 1792, a literary ſociety was inſtituted at the Globe inn, Fore-ſtreet, Exeter, of which the firſt members were, Dr. Downman, preſident; Mr. Polwele, author of "The Hiſtory of Devonſhire;" Mr. Jackſon; the Rev. Mr. Swete, of Oxton; Mr. Hole, author of an "Eſſay on the Arabian Nights' Entertainments;" Mr. Sheldon, the anatomiſt; and other ingenious gentlemen, reſident in Exeter, or its environs. Each produced, in his turn, an eſſay in proſe or verſe, which was

read

read at the regular meeting of the ſociety. An octavo volume of theſe was printed, in 1796, which reflects great honour upon this inſtitution.

Mr. Jackſon poſſeſſes the advantage of a chaſte, correct, and even elegant ſtyle. The reader will not ſlumber over his pages, or when he has peruſed either of his volumes, will he wiſh to lay it by in peace: he will recur to it often with new avidity, and receive from it freſh pleaſure. The ſame may be ſaid of his literary as of his muſical compoſitions, that they will always charm with the force of novelty and delight, though repeated a thouſand and a thouſand times.

In temper and converſation he is what he appears in his writings, pleaſant, ſocial, communicative, and abounding with judicious remarks and entertaining anecdotes. Here follows a liſt of his works:

HIS MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS CONSIST OF,

1 Four Books of Songs.
2 Two of Canzonets.
3 One of Elegies.
4 One of Paſtorals.
5 Ode to Fancy.
6 An Anthem and Ode of Pope.
7 A Book of Hymns.
8 Two Books of Sonatas.
9 Two Operas.
10 One Book of Epigrams.
11 One of Madrigals.
12 One of Quartets.

HIS LITERARY PUBLICATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1 Thirty Letters, three editions.
2 On the preſent State of Muſic, two editions; and
3 The Four Ages, &c.

To the above he has ſet his name. He has alſo publiſhed a Firſt Book for Performers on Keyed Inſtruments, and various Letters and Eſſays in periodical publications—anonymous.

LORD MALMSBURY.

THIS diſtinguiſhed nobleman, whoſe name will frequently occur in the hiſtory of George the Third, would have inherited philoſophy as well as fortune from his anceſtors, could the one have been as eaſily tranſmitted as the other.

His father, James Harris, Eſq. the celebrated author of HERMES, was the ſon of Elizabeth, ſiſter to Anthony, Earl of Shafteſbury, the immortal author of the CHARACTERISTICS. He was born at Saliſbury, in 1708, and after receiving a claſſical education in that city, was removed to Wadham college, Oxford, which he left without taking a degree.

He repreſented the borough of Chriſt-church, in Hampſhire, in ſeveral parliaments; but did not obtain any public office till the year 1763, when he was preferred to a ſeat at the Admiralty-board,

which

which he reſigned ſoon after, on being appointed to another on the Treaſury-bench. In July, 1765, he was deprived of his place, and continued out of office until 1774, when he became Secretary and Comptroller to the Queen, which poſt he held till his death, December 21ſt, 1780.

His only ſon, JAMES HARRIS, now Lord Malmſbury, was born April 20th, 1746, and being early deſigned for a public life, received an education accordingly.

Under ſo profound and elegant a ſcholar as Mr. Harris, the ſon could not but derive every aſſiſtance calculated to render him an ornament to his family. His education, prior to his removal to Oxford, was conducted chiefly under the eye of his father. He alſo left college without taking a degree, and was very early employed as ſecretary to an embaſſy at one of the Northern courts.

In 1772, he appeared in the character of Envoy-extraordinary at Berlin; and in the following year both he and his father were returned members of parliament for Chriſt-church, a borough which has, for many years, been under the patronage of the family. His diplomatic conduct gave ſo much ſatisfaction to the government which he repreſented, that, in 1775, he was made Knight of the Bath, and ſoon after appointed Envoy-extraordinary to the court of Ruſſia.

After reſiding a conſiderable time at Peterſburgh, he was employed as ambaſſador at the Hague; which important ſtation was occupied by him in the year 1787, when Holland was threatened

with a revolution, averted, for ſome time, by a humiliating recourſe to the aſſiſtance of Pruſſian bayonets. The conduct of Sir James Harris on that occaſion was peculiarly offenſive to the patriots; but it was ſo highly ſatisfactory to the Prince of Orange, and the King of Pruſſia, that they beſtowed upon him the privilege of bearing the Pruſſian eagle in his arms, with the motto appertaining to the Houſe of Naſſau, in conſideration of the ſignal ſervices which he had rendered them.

Theſe diſtinctions were confirmed by his own ſovereign, in 1789, and Sir James was created a peer, September 15th, 1788, by the title of Lord Malmſbury, Baron of Malmſbury, in the county of Wilts.

His lordſhip remained out of employment from that time till the government found it expedient, at the end of 1796, to comply with the wiſh of the people, in endeavouring to obtain the reſtoration of peace. No man at that period appeared more fit to be entruſted with ſuch an important charge than Lord Malmſbury; and we believe that his *firſt* appointment to this ſtation was with the entire approbation of all parties. His lordſhip's negociation, however, failed; and he was enjoined to quit Paris, by a peremptory order of the French Directory, in forty-eight hours, December, 1796 *.

* The Directory conceived that he had been tampering as a partiſan, rather than treating like a diplomatic agent.

Whatever

Whatever opinions may be entertained reſpecting the conduct of the two powers, in this negociation, or the views with which they were actuated, it muſt be allowed that his lordſhip evinced, the moſt conſummate knowledge of diplomatic buſineſs,

A ſecond attempt to put an end to this long and ſanguinary conteſt, was thought proper to be made by our miniſters, in June, 1797, and Lord Malmſbury was again appointed to the office of negociator. The neceſſary preliminaries having been accordingly ſettled with the Directory, his lordſhip and ſuite ſet out, on the 30th of that month, for Liſle, the place fixed upon as the ſeat of buſineſs; and the French government immediately extended a chain of telegraphs between that city and Paris.

It would be foreign to our purpoſe to enter into the merits of the political manœuvres practiſed in this diplomatic game. The French Commiſſioners ſhewed themſelves adroit enough for his lordſhip, though an old practitioner, verſed in all the arts of modern intrigue. Their demands, as far as they avowed them, were abundantly extravagant; and the care with which they concealed their objects, was particularly dextrous. After playing with each other till the patience of all Europe was exhauſted, and ſuſpicions began to take place, on the ſcore of ſincerity, the Commiſſioners had recourſe to their old method of putting an end to the negociation, and actually

diſmiſſed

diſmiſſed his lordſhip, upon the plea that he was not veſted with full powers to reſign the whole of the conqueſts made by this country from France and her allies during the war.

The Engliſh miniſter accordingly quitted Liſle, and arrived in London on the 20th of September, without having effected a ſingle ſtep favourable to the great object on which he was employed. It has been, indeed, ſaid, in the ſenate of a neighbouring country, that the "Iriſh Directory" impeded his operations, by means of their agent!

Without throwing the ſlighteſt reflection upon his lordſhip's talents, or inclinations, we yet cannot but acquieſce with the opinion of many very reſpectable politicians, and thoſe, too, of the moſt moderate caſt of ſentiment, that after the ill ſucceſs which attended his former miſſion, it was bad policy in the miniſtry to employ the ſame perſon in a ſimilar negociation.

Indeed ſome have ventured to ſay, that the line of practice in which his lordſhip has uſually been engaged, rendered him unfit to be charged with this buſineſs. Different times, people, and occaſions, certainly call for different kinds of treatment. New modes, and even a new language, ſhould be adopted, in negociating with a people who have thrown aſide old political ceremonies and conſiderations; and, therefore, another kind of ambaſſador ſhould have been ſent to treat with them, than one whoſe whole life had been occu-

pied

pied in the knowledge and practice of the ancient diplomatic forms.

Whether this ſort of reaſoning be right or wrong, we ſhall not take upon us to determine. But we cannot help regretting, that when his lordſhip's firſt attempt failed, his Majeſty's miniſters had not put it out of the power of their adverſaries to accuſe them of inſincerity, by employing another miniſter, when they thought it expedient to treat once more for the reſtoration of peace.

This nobleman poſſeſſes the confidence of the preſent adminiſtration, and is intimately acquainted with its views relative to continental politics. We may, therefore, prognoſticate, that his diplomatic talents will not be ſuffered to ruſt in obſcurity.

Lord Malmeſbury married, July 28th, 1777, the daughter of the late Sir George Amyand, Bart. and ſiſter of the preſent Sir George Cornwall, Bart. He has by his lady ſeveral children.

He has, alſo, two ſiſters living; one married, the other ſingle, and reſiding at his lordſhip's ſeat, the manor-houſe of Great Durnford, about four miles from Saliſbury, only remarkable for its neat and embelliſhed pleaſure-grounds. In the ſame village ſtill ſtands the cottage, to which the great author of Hermes retired from the buſy world, and in which he wrote the chief part of his works. It is unoccupied, but the furniture, &c. is, in all reſpects, carefully and religiouſly preſerved by Lord Malmſbury,

Malmſbury, in the exact ſtate in which it was left by his father. This very intereſting building is entirely ſecluded from the public eye, being ſurrounded on three ſides by walls, and only open on the weſt ſide, which adjoins the Avon. His lordſhip generally ſpends a few weeks in every year in the manor-houſe, in great retirement.

W. J.

JOSEPH WHITE, D.D.

LAUDIAN PROFESSOR OF ARABIC,

In the Univerſity of Oxford.

THE lives of ſuch men as have riſen from very low ſituations in life to diſtinguiſhed eminence, by the ſtrength of their talents alone, are among the moſt uſeful articles of biography, becauſe they hold out encouragement to young perſons of a like deſcription to exert their abilities with perſeverance; and, at the ſame time, afford a leſſon to thoſe who have it in their power to aſſiſt genius. Had CHATTERTON met with a friend, generous enough to put him in a line where he might have turned his talents to an honourable and beneficial account, he would not, probably, have ſought an early grave as a refuge from his miſeries.

The very ingenious and worthy ſubject of the preſent article, was born of parents in indigent circum-

circumſtances, in Glouceſterſhire. His father, we are informed, was a journeyman weaver, and brought his ſon up to the ſame profeſſion. Being, however, a ſenſible man, and, for one in his ſituation, tolerably educated, he gave him what little learning was in his power. This excited a thirſt for greater acquiſitions.

Young White inherited a ſerious caſt of temper from his parents; and he employed all the time he could ſpare in the ſtudy of ſuch books as fell in his way. His attainments, at length, were ſo very reſpectable, that he began to be talked of as a prodigy of learning in his native village. A neighbouring gentleman of fortune luckily chanced to hear of this celebrated ſcholar; and curioſity inclined him to ſee and converſe with him. The modeſty of the ſelf-inſtructed youth recommended him to favour, while the reſpectability of his knowledge rendered him an object of admiration. The gentleman felt that it was a pity ſuch a flower ſhould

——— "bluſh unſeen,
"And waſte its ſweetneſs in the deſert air:"

he accordingly encouraged his ſcholaſtic ambition. He aſſiſted him alſo conſiderably in his ſtudies: and ſo rapidly did the young plant flouriſh under his foſtering care, that the generous patron ſent him to the univerſity of Oxford, where he was entered of Wadham college. There he applied himſelf with ſuch aſſiduity to his ſtudies, as to

gain the general eſteem of the members of that ſociety.

On the 19th of February, 1773, he took the degree of Maſter of Arts, and about that time engaged in the ſtudy of the oriental languages, to which he was induced by the particular recommendation of Dr. Moore, now Archbiſhop of Canterbury; that diſcerning man having obſerved a dint of application in Mr. White, united with a peculiar turn for philological enquiries, which he thought might turn to his account, if devoted to one object. Fortunately he hit upon the one which was beſt ſuited for Mr. White, and which has been of the moſt eſſential ſervice to him. He had before acquired a tolerable ſhare of Hebrew learning; and, conſequently, his progreſs in the other oriental languages was greatly facilitated.

In 1775, he was appointed Archbiſhop Laud's Profeſſor of Arabic; on entering upon which office he pronounced a maſterly oration, which was ſoon afterwards printed with the title of "De Utilitate Ling. Arab. in Studiis Theologicis Oratio habita Oxoniis in Schola Linguarum, vii. id. Aprilis, 1775." 4to.

In this diſcourſe the Profeſſor endeavours to prove the vaſt importance and utility of the Arabic language, particularly in elucidating the ſacred writings. He therefore dwelt upon the neceſſity of *this* branch of literature, and enforced the ſtudy of it with an ardor which was natural for one in his ſituation. The oration had its effect; and

many

many were actually led to study the Arabic, who had before treated it as barren and unprofitable.

He was, at this time, Fellow of his college, being elected in 1774. In 1778, Mr. White printed the Syriac Philoxenian Version of the four gospels, the MS. of which Dr. Gloucester Ridley had given to New college. This version was entitled, "Sacrorum Evangeliorum Versio Syriaca Philoxeniana Ex. Codd. MSS. Ridleianis in Bibl. Coll. Nov. Oxon. Repositis, nunc primum edite, cum Interpretatione et Annotationibus Josephi White, &c." 2 tom. 4to.

November 15, 1771, he preached a very ingenious and elegant sermon before the University, which, according to custom, was soon afterwards printed, under the title of "A Revisal of the English Translation of the Old Testament recommended. To which is added, some Account of an ancient Syriac Translation of great Part of Origen's Hexaplar Edition of the LXX. lately discovered in the Ambrosian Library at Milan," 4to. About this time he was appointed one of the preachers at Whitehall chapel.

In 1780, Mr. White published "A Specimen of the Civil and Military Institutes of Timour or Tamerlane: a work written originally by that celebrated conqueror in the Mosul Language, and since translated into Persian. Now first rendered from the Persian into English, from a MS. in the possession of William Hunter, M.D. with other pieces," 4to.

The

The whole of this work appeared in 1783, tranſlated into Engliſh by Major Davy, with Preface, Index, Geographical Notes, &c. by Mr. White, in one volume, 4to.

In Eaſter term, 1783, being then Bachelor of Divinity, he was appointed to preach the Bampton lecture the next year. As ſoon as he was nominated he ſketched out the plan; and finding aſſiſtance neceſſary to the perfection of it in ſuch a manner as he wiſhed, he went down to Devonſhire on a viſit to Mr. Samuel Badcock, then ſettled as a diſſenting miniſter at South Molton. Doubtleſs, in this interview, the ſcheme was well digeſted, and Mr. Badcock undertook his ſhare of the taſk with that promptitude for which he was remarkable. This circumſtance releaſed the profeſſor's mind from a conſiderable burthen which had oppreſſed it. Where, indeed, could he have found ſuch an auxiliary? The pen of Badcock was not only that of "a ready" but of an elegant writer. He touched no ſubject without ornamenting it. His ſtyle was chaſte, flowing, and nervous. He had, moreover, an univerſal knowledge of theological learning. In controverſy he was quite at home. No wonder, therefore, that the Bampton lectures were admirable in point of language, and forcible in reſpect to argument.

Let us not, however, detract from the lecturer's merit. Great was the genius which formed the plan, and gave a body to the work. Mr. White acted with prudence in calling to his aid ſuch men

as

as Badcock and Parr. Yet his own ſhare of theſe labours was ſufficient to entitle him to the celebrity which they have procured, and he is only to be blamed for not having acknowledged his obligations to thoſe elegant ſcholars, in a preface to the volume when publiſhed.

As ſoon as the lectures were delivered, the applauſe with which they were received was general throughout the Univerſity. They were printed the ſame year, and met with univerſal approbation. A ſecond edition appeared in 1785, to which the author added a ſermon, which he had ſome time before preached before the Univerſity, on the neceſſity of propagating chriſtianity in the Eaſt-Indies.

Mr. White's reputation was now eſtabliſhed, and he was conſidered as one of the ableſt vindicators of the chriſtian doctrines modern time had witneſſed. Lord Thurlow, without any ſolicitation, gave him a prebend in the cathedral of Glouceſter, which at once placed him in eaſy and independent circumſtances. Soon after this he took his degree of Doctor of Divinity, and was looked up to with the greateſt reſpect in the Univerſity, as one of its chief ornaments, until the year 1788, when the death of Mr. Badcock diſcloſed his ſhare in the admired lectures. At firſt, Dr. White was aſtoniſhed; but the letters that had paſſed between Badcock and him, on this very ſubject, were not only in exiſtence, but in the hands of one who felt himſelf gratified in being the poſſeſſor of ſo important a ſecret. In addition

dition to this, there was, found among the papers of the deceaſed, a promiſſory-note for 500l. from the Doctor; the payment of which was demanded, but refuſed by him on the ground that it was illegal in the firſt inſtance, as not having the words "value received," and ſecondly, that it was for ſervice to be rendered in the hiſtory of Egypt, which the Doctor and Mr. Badcock had projected. The friends of the deceaſed, however, were of a different opinion; and the Doctor, at length, very properly conſented to liquidate the debt.

Notwithſtanding this conceſſion, Dr. Gabriel, who poſſeſſed the letters, printed them in 1789, in order, as he ſaid, to vindicate the character of the deceaſed, as well as his own, both of which had been aſſailed on this occaſion. In conſequence of this publication, Dr. White printed "A Statement of his literary Obligations to the Rev. Mr. Samuel Badcock, and the Rev. Samuel Parr, LL.D." By this it appeared, that though Mr. Badcock's ſhare in the lectures was conſiderable and important, yet that it was not in that proportion which had been repreſented. As to Dr. Parr's, it conſiſted ſimply of verbal corrections.

Thus ended this curious diſpute, which, at that time, threw the whole Univerſity into confuſion and even contention. The Doctor's apology, however (for ſuch in fact his ſtatement is to be conſidered), gave ſufficient ſatisfaction, not only to his fellow academics, but to the literary world at large.

Since that period the profeſſor has vacated his fellowſhip,

fellowſhip, by taking to himſelf a wife, and accepting a college living, in Norfolk, where he reſides during a conſiderable part of the year. In his parſonage-houſe, he has a printing-preſs, with a large quantity of oriental types, and there he is at preſent buſily engaged in printing the Syriac Old Teſtament, deſcribed in the appendix to his ſermon on the neceſſity of a reviſal of the Engliſh tranſlation of the Bible. His man and maid ſervant labour at the preſs, and Mrs. White aſſiſts her huſband in compoſing.

Among Mr. Badcock's papers was found an analyſis of the projected hiſtory of Egypt, in Dr. White's hand-writing. It is a very maſterly ſketch; and we hope the learned profeſſor will find time to complete a deſign, for the execution of which he has, in a manner, pledged himſelf to the public; and, in conſequence of recent and important events, we think it will bring him more credit and profit than the publication of the Syriac Bible.

Dr. White is the reviewer of publications in Hebrew and ſubjects of oriental literature in "the Britiſh Critic."

RICHARD HURD, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF WORCESTER.

THIS learned and truly venerable prelate was born at Congreve, a village in Staffordſhire, where his father was a reſpectable farmer, who intending his ſon for the church, placed him under the tuition of that eminent ſcholar Anthony Blackwall.

Having attained a ſound claſſical knowledge, he was ſent to Cambridge, where he was admitted of Emanuel College, of which he afterwards became fellow; and was preſented by his ſociety to the living of Thurcaſton in Lincolnſhire.

In this retirement he devoted himſelf to the duties of his ſituation, and the cultivation of letters. Here he prepared his edition of Horace, which he judiciouſly dedicated to Biſhop Warburton, then conſidered as the coloſſus of literature, and the firſt critic of his day. Few perſons had a keener eye to diſcern the merits of men than Warburton; and though no one, perhaps, had a more haughty mind, or ever treated his adverſaries with ſuch coarſe ſeverity, yet certainly he was deſtitute of envy, and dreaded not the depreciation of his own fame, in conſequence of the riſing reputation of others.

He allured Mr. Hurd from his beloved ſtate of ſecluſion, and brought him forward to the world, almoſt againſt his own inclination. He made him Archdeacon of Glouceſter, and by way of acquiring

popularity

popularity for him in the metropolis, aſſociated him with himſelf in the ſituation of preacher at the chapel in Lincoln's Inn.

The object of the Biſhop was ſoon obtained. Hurd's diſcourſes procured general admiration; and the preacher attracted the notice and friendſhip of the *great* Earl of Mansfield, through whoſe intereſt he obtained the diſtinguiſhed office of Preceptor to the Prince of Wales, a ſituation for which no man in the kingdom was better calculated, and the duties of which he performed with great honour to himſelf, and, it is to be hoped, benefit to his royal pupil.

Preferment was now certain; nor was it long withheld. In 1775 he was made Biſhop of Litchfield and Coventry; in 1781 he was appointed clerk of the cloſet to the king; and on the 30th of June, of the ſame year, he was confirmed in the ſee of Worceſter.

On the death of Dr. Cornwallis, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, in 1783, that dignity was offered to Biſhop Hurd; but he had obtained a ſituation more congenial to his wiſhes, and therefore he declined it.

Since his tranſlation to Worceſter, his Lordſhip has almoſt wholly ſecluded himſelf from the buſy world, reſiding chiefly at Hartlebury-caſtle, the epiſcopal palace of his dioceſe. This ancient and noble pile he has enriched by a large and inеſtimable library, containing the greater part of the books that had belonged to Mr. Pope and Biſhop

 Warburton,

Warburton, which he has bequeathed for the uſe of his ſucceſſors.

Here he exhibits a faithful and beautiful picture of primative epiſcopacy; beloved and venerated by all ranks, as well of the laity as the clergy.

It remains to ſay ſomething of his Lordſhip's literary character; and it would not be exaggerated praiſe, to aſſert, that he ſtands at the head of the preſent generation of Engliſh ſcholars, eminently ſuperior to thoſe of his own age and ſtanding, and unrivalled by ſuch as are younger than himſelf.

He has ſhewn his critical powers and taſte to the greateſt advantage in his edition of Horace's "Epiſtolæ ad Piſones," &c. with an Engliſh commentary and notes; and alſo in his edition of Cowley's works. The firſt appeared in 1759, and the latter in 1772.

But the work which procured him the greateſt reputation, was his "Moral and Political Dialogues, with Letters on Chivalry and Romance," 3 vols. 8vo. 1765. Some of the pieces had appeared before, without a name, and their ſucceſs probably led the ingenious author to publiſh a complete and enlarged edition. Theſe dialogues evince a profound knowledge of the Engliſh hiſtory and conſtitution, and breathe a warm attachment to the cauſe of liberty.

As a theological writer, his principal productions are two volumes of excellent ſermons, preached before the Society of Lincoln's-Inn; and another of Diſcourſes on the Prophecies, at the lecture found-

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ed by Biſhop Warburton at the ſame place. In theſe compoſitions we obſerve deep thinking, cloſe logical reaſoning, fervent piety, and chaſte and elegant language.

As a diſputant, Dr. Hurd appeared to great advantage in a pamphlet entitled "Remarks on Mr. Hume's Eſſay on the Natural Hiſtory of Religion." This anonymous performance irritated the philoſopher conſiderably, and he expreſſed his reſentment in terms that ſhewed how much he had been hurt by the caſtigation.

The attachment manifeſted by Dr. Hurd to Biſhop Warburton has often brought upon him very illiberal cenſures. About the time of his firſt connexion with that great prelate, he printed an "Eſſay on the Delicacy of Friendſhip," in which Dr. Jortin and Dr. Leland of Dublin were treated rather roughly for their want of due reſpect to the author's patron. When we recollect the motives which produced this eſſay, we ſee no reaſon to blame Dr. Hurd; his zeal for his friend was commendable, though it perhaps carried him rather beyond the line of prudence. When reflection operated on his mind, he accordingly ſaw reaſon to diſapprove of his haſtineſs; and, much to his honour, took great pains to ſuppreſs the obnoxious pamphlet. It would have been, perhaps, better if the book had been ſuffered to ſink into that oblivion which the author wiſhed; as unfortunately, on his Lordſhip's publiſhing a large and magnificent edition of his friend's works in 1738, one of the

greateſt ſcholars of this age, too officiouſly, perhaps, and too much in that very ſpirit which he wanted to expoſe, reprinted the Eſſay, with ſome other "Tracts by Warburton and a Warburtonian."

When Biſhop Hurd's edition of Warburton's works appeared, the world was greatly diſappointed at not finding the long-expected life of that celebrated character. This afforded freſh ground for cenſure, which was by no means ſpared. In conſequence of this complaint, he printed a prefatory diſcourſe, by way of introduction to the work, containing a brief but elegant memoir of the author. Poſſibly on his lordſhip's deceaſe a more copious biography of his ancient friend, and patron, will be left for publication: this, of courſe, will exhibit a hiſtory of Engliſh literature for half a century.

We had nearly forgotten to mention, that the earlieſt production of his Lordſhip's pen, which has appeared in print, was an Ode on the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle. W.

DAVID STEWART ERSKINE,

EARL OF BUCHAN.

IF the love of freedom, and the love of literature; if eminent proficiency in the fine arts, and an eager fondneſs to patroniſe the ſame proficiency in others; if claſſical and patriotic enthuſiaſm, aſſociated with not a few of the moſt amiable and reſpectable moral virtues;—are calculated to recommend

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any man to the eſteem and praiſe of his contemporaries, David, Earl of Buchan, cannot fail of obtaining the higheſt approbation.

This nobleman is the repreſentative of a younger branch of the illuſtrious family of the Erſkines, Earls of Marr, whoſe virtues and wiſdom recommended them for a ſeries of generations to the very honourable and confidential office of tutors to the ancient Kings of Scotland. At the univerſity of Glaſgow, in early youth, David, then known by the title of Lord Curdroſs, applied with ardent and ſucceſsful diligence to every ingenious and liberal ſtudy. His hours of relaxation from ſcience and literature were frequently paſſed in endeavours to acquire the arts of deſign, etching, engraving, and drawing, in the academy which the excellent, but ill requited, ROBERT FOULIS, for ſome time laboured to ſupport in that weſtern metropolis of Scotland.

Succeeding to the hereditary eſtates and honours of his family, he, from that moment, evinced a generous ambition to maintain and exalt, by his perſonal exertions, the true dignity of the Scottiſh peerage, and the name of ERSKINE.

The king's miniſters had been long accuſtomed, at each new election, to tranſmit to every peer of Scotland, a liſt of the names of ſixteen of his fellow-peers, for whom he was required to give his vote, in the choice of the members who ſhould repreſent the nobles of Scotland in the Britiſh parliament, and to this humiliating uſurpation, the deſcendants of the moſt illuſtrious names had accuſtomed themſelves

ſelves tamely to ſubmit! The Earl of Buchan, with the ſpirit of an ancient Baron, took an early opportunity of declaring, that he would oblige the Secretary of State who ſhould inſult him with ſuch an application, to waſh away the affront with his blood. The practice, from that time, ceaſed; and miniſters were obliged to adopt ſome other leſs offenſive mode of exerciſing their electioneering influence over the Caledonian peerage.

The Earl had two very promiſing brothers, both younger than himſelf; and on their education he earneſtly beſtowed that care which was to be expected from the kindneſs and vigilance, not merely of a near relation, but of a prudent and affectionate parent. The fortunes of his family had been, from different cauſes, not diſhonoured indeed, but impaired ſo conſiderably, that they could no longer afford an annual income ſufficiently ample to ſupport its dignities with due ſplendour, and to enable him to gratify all the generous wiſhes of a munificent ſpirit. Struck with this, he reſolutely adopted a plan of economy, admirably fitted to retrieve and re-eſtabliſh thoſe falling fortunes; and his endeavours (perhaps the moſt honourable and difficult which a young and liberal-minded nobleman could reſolve upon), without ſubjecting him to the imputation of parſimony, have been crowned and rewarded with opulence.

He perceived, with concern, that ſince the days of Sibbald, and Gordon of Straloch, the ſtudy of the antiquities of the Scottiſh hiſtory had been ſhamefully

shamefully and unhappily neglected; and it is chiefly owing to his patriotic exertions, that the Royal Antiquary Society of Scotland is indebted for its existence.

The High School of Edinburgh is confessedly one of the best seminaries of the kingdom, for the initiation of youth in the first principles of the Latin language. By frequent visits to this seminary, the Earl of Buchan has sought every opportunity of recommending to public notice the skill and attention of the teachers, as well as the happy proficiency of their pupils; and he has bestowed an annual premium upon the successful competitor in a trial of excellence among the students at the university of Aberdeen.

On reviewing the memorials of the Scottish nobility, Lord Buchan felt his enthusiastic veneration in a particular manner excited by the science and virtues of the illustrious Napier, the inventor of logarithms, and the most eminent discoverer in philosophy of which Scotland can as yet boast. With a generous hand he aspired to crown the memory of his illustrious countryman with due honours; and in a well-written biographical memoir, displayed his life and character to the reverence and imitation of the present age. The enthusiasm of Lord Buchan has also instituted an annual festive commemoration of Thomson, at Ednam, the scene of that poet's birth. Mr. Pinkerton, the historian and antiquary; Burns, who was prematurely snatched away from the admiration of the present age;

Tytler, the tranſlator of Callimachus; and a long liſt of other men of genius, have been ſo fortunate as to attract the patronage and friendſhip of Lord Buchan.

The life of Andrew Fletcher has been, by his care, happily illuſtrated; and we owe to him ſome precious fragments of ſpeeches and eſſays, by that incomparable patriot, which had not been before printed.

The Earl's exertions have been as invariably faithful to the cauſe of Liberty as of Literature. He has been always underſtood to be among the moſt zealous votaries of the principles upon which the revolution of 1688 was accompliſhed, and yet he unaccountably failed in an attempt to repreſent his own order in the Britiſh parliament. His voice, his writings, his exertions in every manly and honourable mode, have ever been ready to reſiſt any threatened infringement of thoſe principles, in the Britiſh legiſlature or government. When the new dawn of a revolution ſeemingly favourable to genuine liberty broke forth in France, he was not among the moſt tardy to hail its riſe, and to bleſs its progreſs. When the kings of Europe aroſe in arms for the purpoſe of once more binding the genius of that nation in the fetters of deſpotiſm, the Earl could not view the ill-omened enterpriſe without devoutly wiſhing that its force might be ſhattered againſt the ſacred armour of that virtue, and new-born freedom, which it boaſted to deſtroy.

On

On beholding thoſe exceſſes into which the French have been hurried in the progreſs of their revolutionary career, he lamented that the errors of humanity are ever too cloſely aſſociated with its moſt ſplendid and heroic exertions, yet without abandoning thoſe generous wiſhes for the immortal eſtabliſhment of Gallic freedom, which he had before accuſtomed himſelf to entertain.

Long may he ſurvive to do honour to the age by his virtues; to ſuſtain by his voice and his exertions the cauſe of genuine Britiſh freedom; and to patroniſe that literature, and thoſe fine arts, in which he himſelf excels!

T. N.

JAMES NORTHCOTE, ESQ. R.A.

THIS ingenious artiſt is deſcended from the ancient and reſpectable family of the NORTHCOTES, which has been ſettled in Devonſhire at leaſt ever ſince the conqueſt, given ſeveral high ſheriffs to the county, many repreſentatives for it in parliament, and on which a baronetage was conferred in the reign of James the Firſt.

The ſubject of the preſent article was born at Plymouth, in the year 1746. His father was an eminent tradeſman in that town, and brought up his ſon to his own buſineſs. His propenſity to the elegant arts, however, prevailed over the drudgery of a mechanical employment; and at length he determined to abandon the occupation in which

he

he had been engaged, and devote himself entirely to his favourite object. With this view he came to London, and placed himself under the care and tuition of his countryman and friend Sir Joshua Reynolds, then in the zenith of his glory. That great man was ever ready to lend his helping hand to aspiring merit; and he gave Mr. Northcote his utmost assistance towards perfecting himself in the art of painting. Our artist continued with Sir Joshua five years, living with him in all the familiarity of friendship, and being introduced by him to the most eminent characters of the age.

In the summer of 1777, Mr. Northcote set out for Italy, following in this, the example and advice of his great master. He visited every part of that delightful country, which, at that time, was the unrivalled seat of the fine arts. At Rome he continued near three years, which he found short enough, for a man of taste, who was desirous of treasuring up in his mind the most extensive knowledge of the sciences connected with his profession.

During his residence in Italy, he profited so well by the opportunities he met with, and obtained so extensive an acquaintance with the first artists of the age and country in which he then was, that he became greatly respected. His talents and deportment procured him the honour of being elected a member of the ancient Etruscan Academy at Cartoni, of the Imperial Academy at Florence, and of the Academy Del Forti, at Rome.

While at Florence, he painted a portrait of himself,

ſelf, for the academy, which is a compliment always expected from every new member.

He returned to England in 1780, and came by the way of Flanders, not only becauſe it was during the time of war, but that he might have the advantage of obſerving all that could be ſeen of the eminent maſters of the FLEMISH SCHOOL.

Thus amply furniſhed with every requiſite that could conſtitute him a maſter in his profeſſion, he entered upon it in the metropolis of his native country, ſhortly after his arrival, and ſoon obtained the moſt diſtinguiſhed reputation. In 1786, he was choſen a member of the Royal Academy, and in every ſubſequent exhibition at Somerſet-houſe his productions have borne a conſpicuous part.

Perhaps the moſt perfect picture from his pencil was exhibited the year he was admitted of the academy. The ſubject—the two young princes murdered in the tower. The ſtory is ſtrikingly and affectingly told; the drawing is perfectly correct, and the aſſaſſins are particularly well delineated. This picture was purchaſed by Alderman Boydell, and an engraving from it graces his ſplendid edition of Shakſpeare. Our artiſt has alſo painted ſome other pieces for the ſame work; all of which have great merit, but none in any degree equal with that juſt mentioned.

In the exhibition of 1796, Mr. Northcote produced a ſeries of moral pictures, deſigned to ſhew the oppoſite effects of ſerioufneſs and levity in two young

young women in menial ſituations of life. He clearly had HOGARTH in view; but though his pictures are good, they tell not what they are meant to expreſs with the force which characterizes that inimitable artiſt's productions. Theſe have ſince been engraved.

It redounds greatly to his praiſe, that his pencil has never, in the ſlighteſt inſtance, deviated from morality and decency. The reputation which Mr. Northcote has acquired, as a painter, is doubtleſs well-merited. His colouring is chaſte, forcible, and diſtinct; his pictures have that breadth of light and ſhade which is one of the moſt agreeable properties of a good painting, and which is yet ſo ſeldom obſerved, even in the works of maſters. His hiſtorical pieces ſhew a great, and an accurate acquaintance with the ſubject, much ſtudy, and that vigour of conception which is the true characteriſtic of native genius.

In private life, Mr. Northcote is greatly eſteemed, as a modeſt, unaſſuming, virtuous, well-informed, and communicative man. W.

RICHARD WATSON, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF LANDAFF.

THIS liberal-minded prelate was born in the village of Everſham, about five miles from Kendal, in the county of Weſtmoreland, in the year 1737. His father was a clergyman, and maſter of the free

free grammar-ſchool in Kendal, where our divine received the whole of his ſchool education, prior to his going to the univerſity of Cambridge. To this place he brought with him a good ſtock of claſſical learning, a ſpirit of perſevering induſtry, and a very bad provincial accent, which he retained for a long time. He was admitted of Trinity college, and diſtinguiſhed, while there, by a cloſe application to his ſtudies, and conſtantly wearing a coarſe mottled Weſtmoreland coat, and blue yarn-ſtockings.

In taking his degrees, he ſtood high among the wranglers, and the ſuavity of his manners, the regularity of his conduct, and the reſpectability of his talents, procured him a fellowſhip and a college tutorſhip. On the former occaſion he was oppoſed by Mr. Poſtlethwayte, who was deeply verſed in mathematics, but knew nothing of the world. Poor Poſtlethwayte, with all his ſkill, could *demonſtrate* himſelf fit only for a ſmall country living, while Watſon made his way to a profeſſorſhip and a mitre. He, indeed, ſoon obtained the eſteem of his own ſociety, and of the univerſity at large, to which a ſpirited oppoſition made by him to an improper recommendation of a candidate by the Duke of Grafton greatly contributed. This circumſtance redounds to the honour both of Dr. Watſon and the Duke, for the latter was ſo ſenſible of the propriety of the other's conduct, that he cultivated his acquaintance, and from that time they have been cordial friends.

It was not long after this, that he was elected public profeſſor of Chymiſtry, though he was then actually ignorant of the firſt principles of that ſcience. His electors, however, had no reaſon to repent of their choice, for he ſoon made up by diligence, the want of preparatory acquirements. He paſſed whole days, and ſometimes nights, in the laboratory, aſſiſted by a good practical chymiſt, whoſe name was Hoffman. In their firſt experiments, they deſtroyed numerous retorts, injured their health, endangered their lives, actually blew themſelves up, and at length did the ſame by their workſhop. But our profeſſor was not to be intimidated by all theſe diſcouraging circumſtances. He poſſeſſed an indefatigable ſpirit, which was deſtined to overcome difficulties.

His chymical character was at laſt completely eſtabliſhed; and his lectures, which were crowded with auditors, acquired him a high reputation. He was next advanced to the *Regius* Profeſſorſhip of Divinity, on the death of the learned Dr. Rutherforth, and about the ſame time he married.

Dr. Watſon very early diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the career of politics, by his attachment to thoſe Whig principles which have, until of late, uniformly diſtinguiſhed Cambridge from her ſiſter univerſity. He choſe a critical time to ſhew off theſe principles, and to gain himſelf popularity: this was the year 1776, when the ſubjects of Government and Civil Liberty were generally diſcuſſed. His ſermon preached before the Univer-

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ſity on the anniverſary of the Reſtoration, was printed under the title of "The Principles of the Revolution vindicated;" and attracted a degree of attention, exceeded only by Biſhop Hoadley's famous ſermon on the kingdom of Chriſt. In the courſe of the ſame year he alſo publiſhed another diſcourſe, preached before the univerſity, on the anniverſary of the King's acceſſion. The publication of theſe brought on a controverſy; but the only piece worth noticing, on this occaſion, was "An Heroic Epiſtle to Dr. Watſon," by the facetious author of "An Epiſtle to Sir William Chambers," under the appellation of "Macgregor."

He ſoon after gave more ſatisfaction to the religious world, and gained a higher portion of applauſe from the public at large, by "An Apology for Chriſtianity, in a Series of Letters, addreſſed to Edward Gibbon, Eſq." This work, though perhaps it is not ſufficiently copious, raiſed the author's reputation very high, both as a controverſialiſt, and a polite writer. The manner in which the divine treated the deiſtical hiſtorian, has been greatly admired by all but incorrigible bigots, and held up as an excellent example for imitation. Mr. Gibbon declined entering into a diſcuſſion of the diſputed points with the profeſſor; but he wrote him a very polite letter, to which he received as polite an anſwer. The correſpondence has been printed by Lord Sheffield, and it does honour to both parties.

Dr. Watſon printed another political ſermon,

preached before the univerſity of Cambridge, February 4th, 1780, being the day appointed for a general faſt, which diſcourſe is of the ſame complexion as thoſe above mentioned.

In 1781, he publiſhed a volume of Chymical Eſſays, addreſſed to his pupil the late Duke of Rutland. This work was received by the public with ſuch great and deſerved approbation, as to encourage the author to give the world, at different times, four additional volumes, all of acknowledged merit.

In the preface to the laſt volume, he has theſe remarkable obſervations: "When I was elected "profeſſor of divinity, in 1771, I determined to "abandon, for ever, the ſtudy of chymiſtry, and "I did abandon it for ſeveral years; but the "*veteris veſtigia flammæ* ſtill continued to delight "me, and at length ſeduced me from my purpoſe.

"When I was made a Biſhop, in 1782, I again "determined to quit my favourite purſuit: the "volume which I now offer to the public is a ſad "proof of the imbecility of my reſolution. I "have on this day, however, offered a ſacrifice to "other people's notions, I confeſs, rather than "to my own opinion of *epiſcopal decorum*—I have "deſtroyed all my chymical manuſcripts.—A "proſpect of returning health might have per-"ſuaded me to purſue this delightful ſcience; but I "have now certainly done with it for ever; at leaſt, "I have taken the moſt effectual ſtep I could, to "wean myſelf from an attachment to it; for, with

"the

" the holy zeal of the idolaters of old, who had " been addicted to curious arts—*I have burned my* " *books.*"

At length Dr. Watſon's merits, and the recommendation of the Duke of Rutland, procured him a ſeat on the epiſcopal bench, on the tranſlation of Biſhop Barrington from the ſee of Landaff to Saliſbury. This biſhopric being poor, he was permitted to hold with it the Archdeaconry of Ely, a Rectory in Leiceſterſhire, and the divinity profeſſorſhip, to which is annexed the valuable living of Sameſham.

The gratitude of another pupil of Dr. Watſon's is ſtill more memorable. The late Mr. Luther, of Ongar, in Eſſex, at his diſeaſe, in 1786, bequeathed to his tutor the ſum of 20,000*l.*

The Biſhop was hardly warm in his ſeat, before he brought himſelf into pretty general notice, as the advocate of eccleſiaſtical reform, in " A Letter addreſſed to the Archbiſhop of Canterbury." In this, his lordſhip ſtated, with no ſmall force, and with conſiderable pathos, the hardſhips of the inferior clergy, and the neceſſity of an equalization of church-preferments. Though his arguments were concluſive, and though the facts which he adduced were incontrovertible, yet many friends to his ſcheme thought him rather too precipitate and irregular in bringing forward his ſentiments on this ſubject. An addreſs to the metropolitan, through the medium of the preſs, from the junior prelate on the bench, was conſidered as a mode of

proceeding not quite in the ſtrict line of eccleſiaſtical propriety, nor the beſt calculated to attain the object in view.

This letter accordingly drew down on his lordſhip ſome very ſevere ſtrictures from the pen of Mr. Cumberland, a writer of great powers, but who, on this occaſion, was far from manifeſting a commendable temper.

The public curioſity was greatly excited when the Biſhop was appointed to preach before the Lords, January 30th, 1783. His diſcourſes at Cambridge were ſtill freſh in every perſon's remembrance, and, therefore, ſomething unuſual was expected on this occaſion. The abbey was uncommonly crowded; but the Biſhop conducted himſelf with extreme caution, and delivered a ſermon admirable in its compoſition, and very temperate in its ſentiments.

In 1786, his lordſhip publiſhed, at Cambridge, "A Collection of Theological Tracts," in ſix volumes, octavo, deſigned entirely for the uſe of ſtudents in divinity. This collection conſiſts of pieces, many of which were become exceedingly ſcarce, on the moſt intereſting ſubjects in ſacred literature, by different writers. Little elſe is wanting to form ſuch a compilation, but great reading, candour, and judgment. Theſe are ſufficiently diſplayed in this edition; which cannot but prove an ineſtimable library of divinity to every candidate for holy orders.

The Biſhop took part againſt the miniſtry during the

the diſcuſſions on the commercial treaty with France; and at the time of the King's illneſs, he voted with thoſe Lords who conſidered the Prince of Wales as having an abſolute right to an unqualified aſſumption of the Regency. As the ſee of St. Aſaph was then vacant by the death of the worthy Dr. Shipley, ſome perſons were diſpoſed to think that Biſhop W. had his eye upon a tranſlation thither. The King, however, recovered; the Regency, of courſe, fell to the ground; and the biſhopric of St. Aſaph was filled by Dr. Halifax.

In June, 1791, the Biſhop delivered a charge to his clergy, in which he took occaſion to touch upon the great revolution which had recently taken place in France, and to advert to the ſtate of things at home, chiefly with reſpect to the condition of the church, and the pretenſions of diſſenters. Some of his hearers took notes of his lordſhip's diſcourſe, copies of which were not only circulated with great induſtry throughout the dioceſe, but ſpread over all parts of the principality, and even reached Lambeth. Alarmed at the intention evidently manifeſted by this mode of circulation, he loſt no time in publiſhing a faithful copy of his charge, which completely did away the evil deſigns of his enemies.

In the courſe of the preſent eventful conteſt, his lordſhip has exhibited himſelf, in general, the ſteady advocate of pacific meaſures; and he has made ſome admirable and very impreſſive ſpeeches

in the Houſe of Lords, on the neceſſity of adopting a conciliatory ſpirit.

But one of the beſt ſervices which he ever rendered to the public, was by counteracting the poiſonous principles of the author of "The Age of Reaſon," by "An Apology for the Bible, in a Series of Letters, addreſſed to the Author of that Work," in 1796. This has, doubtleſs, been of infinite ſervice in maintaining the cauſe of truth; as it is written in a popular manner, and with a dignity of expreſſion, and power of argument, moſt admirably adapted to impreſs the mind with that reſpectful ſerioufneſs which is ſo neceſſary to produce a rational conviction.

However, it muſt be lamented, that the Biſhop has given ſome advantage to the infidels, by paſſing over in ſilence certain parts of the Bible objected to by them. From that ſilence much has been inferred; and it certainly would have been more noble, and in fact more prudent, to have expreſſed his free opinion concerning thoſe paſſages.

At the beginning of the preſent year, his lordſhip printed a very ſeaſonable and animated "Addreſs to the People of Great Britain." In this performance, the Biſhop waves diſcuſſing the merits or demerits of the war, as to its origin. He conſiders the nation as reduced to the alternative either of an abſolute ſubmiſſion to the enemy, or a vigorous proſecution of the conteſt. Preferring the latter to the former, he pleads for great

ſacrifices,

ſacrifices, and calls upon his countrymen to make very ſtrenuous exertions.

Every body allowed this addreſs to poſſeſs great merit as a compoſition; but many who have made financial politics their ſtudy, conceived that the Biſhop had gone out of his depth; while others think, and doubtleſs with reaſon, that he has departed from all his former principles.

That ſuch a tract, coming from ſuch a man, ſhould produce replies, is not to be wondered at. The weight of his lordſhip's character was well known. His popularity was very great; and thoſe who were adverſe to the ſentiments which he now expreſſed, were ſenſible that ſuch ſentiments would have a very extenſive influence upon the public mind: but the proſecution of two of his lordſhip's antagoniſts, has inflicted a deadly wound on the liberty of the preſs, and thus rendered controverſy ſafe only on one ſide of the queſtion!

The Biſhop is a good public ſpeaker; his action is graceful, his voice full and harmonious, and his delivery chaſte and correct.

As a writer he is diſtinguiſhed by a ſtyle plain and neat, but ſtrictly pure, nervous, and argumentative.

As a biſhop his character is moſt excellent; and as far as his influence extends, he hath been uniformly the patron of merit. His family conſiſts of ſix children; and his chief reſidence is Colgarth-park, delightfully ſituated near the lakes in his native county.

Beſides

Beſides the pieces already mentioned, he hath written: "Richardi Watſon, A.M. Coll. Sacr. Sanctæ Trin. Soc. et Chemiæ Profeſſoris in Academia Cantabrigenſi Inſtitutionum Chemicarum in prelectionibus Academicis explicatum Pars Metallurgica," octavo, 1766. "An Eſſay on the Subjects of Chymiſtry, and their general Diviſions," octavo, 1771. "A Defence of revealed Religion, in two Sermons preached in the cathedral church of Landaff." "A Charge to the Clergy of that Dioceſe, in June, 1795." "Sermons and Tracts," one volume, octavo; and a "Charge to his Clergy, in 1798."

A. T.

THE HONOURABLE HENRY ERSKINE.

HENRY ERSKINE, the brother of David Earl of Buchan, is ſuppoſed to poſſeſs a large portion of his genius. He received, in early youth, the advantage of that liberal and literary education which in Scotland is rarely denied even to the meaneſt yeoman; and has, till of late, been moſt ſolicitouſly beſtowed on the children of nobility. The fortune which he inherited was not ſufficient to enable him to bury his talents in frivolous idleneſs, and he choſe the practice of the law for his profeſſional purſuit. He was accordingly admitted, when very young, a member of the Scottiſh *Faculty of Advocates*, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf alike at the bar, in the ſocieties

of

of his companions, and in thoſe elegant and faſhionable aſſemblies unto which his high birth and perſonal accompliſhments introduced him, by an unrivalled ſprightlineſs of fancy, and quickneſs of apprehenſion. When all contended in wit, and ſportive humour, the ſupreme praiſe ſcarcely ever failed to be beſtowed on Henry Erſkine.

The elocution of the Scottiſh bar, even then, favoured not a little of the unction of Donald Cargill, or George Whitefield. Young Erſkine, in his firſt pleadings, diſplayed with inimitable felicity a certain grace, livelineſs, and eaſe, which needed only to be heard, to put to ſhame thoſe vile compoſitions which had been before admired. Every thing concurred to promiſe him a moſt brilliant career. But it was feared, that parts ſo lively, and ſucceſs ſo ſplendid, might prove fatal, by ſeducing him into that negligence, and ſelf-conceit, which, alas! too often blight the richeſt buds of opening genius. The anxiety of his friends, and invidious rivalry of his competitors, were alike ready to ſuggeſt that diſſipation, frivolity, or petulant ſelf-applauſe, muſt ſoon expoſe him to be outſtripped in his profeſſional career, by the moſt ſober ſpirited of his brother-advocates; in the ſame manner as the hare in the fable is ſaid to have been left behind by the ſnail. The event, however, proved far otherwiſe.

He had the good ſenſe to perceive that, in order to excel, he muſt dedicate himſelf with inflexible ardor and perſeverance to the attainment of profeſſional excellence, and acquire, by unremitting practice,

practice, that honourable independence of fortune which was neceſſary to give due luſtre to his talents. In a ſhort time he became an Elder, and a Speaker in the general aſſembly of the church of Scotland, the beſt theatre for deliberative eloquence which his native country affords. He vigilantly ſeized every occaſion for the exerciſe of his abilities, as a lawyer and a pleader; and ſoon convinced the world that he was determined to become a ſteady practitioner.

Having obtained in marriage the only daughter of Mr. Fullerton, a lady of a reſpectable family, and who brought him a very handſome fortune, that event tended happily to confirm him in thoſe habits of aſſiduity, for which he had begun before to be diſtinguiſhed.

Every ſucceſſive year now encreaſed his employment at the bar, where he was ſoon accounted, if not the very firſt, at leaſt in the foremoſt rank. Eminent as a wit, and an advocate, his political ſentiments could not long be a matter of indifference to the circle in which he moved. Like his brother, the Earl of Buchan, he avowed himſelf a ſtaunch and ardent Whig, and naturally gained the notice and the friendſhip of the moſt illuſtrious votaries of Whiggiſm, as well in England as in Scotland.

After the concluſion of the American war, when Charles Fox, along with that great political party of which he was the informing and guiding genius, were, for a ſhort time, maſters of the energies of

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the Britiſh government, Henry Erſkine was the man whom they choſe as the confidential lawyer of their adminiſtration in Scotland. They accordingly haſtened to appoint him *Lord Advocate*; and ſo ſplendid was his reputation as a lawyer, and ſo liberal his character as a man of integrity and honour, that the voice even of his political enemies could ſcarcely refrain from applauding the nomination.

But Fox and his party were quickly driven from the helm; and Erſkine was diſmiſſed from his official ſituation, to make room for one who was, indeed, a very worthy young man, but deſtitute alike of powerful talents, and juridical experience. This loſs, however, could neither degrade the character of Erſkine, nor leſſen his practice at the bar. He had before been, and he ſtill continued to be, the lawyer, whom, on every great occaſion, both parties were anxious to retain as their firſt counſel.

Upon a vacancy in the office of Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, of which he has ſince been ſo ſhamefully bereft, that reſpectable body, perhaps the moſt illuſtrious juridical corporation in Europe, beſtowed the office on Henry Erſkine; with an eagerneſs with ſeemed to demonſtrate, that they conferred equal honour on him and themſelves by the choice.

Although a man of wit and talents, he has not been ſo imprudent as to laviſh his honourable gains in a careleſs profuſion of expence, inſtead of accumulating them for a patrimony to his children.

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Neither did the fatal ſchiſm in the Whig party, in conſequence of the diverſity of ſentiments with which the events of the French revolution were beheld in Britain, betray him into any political inconſiſtency. On the contrary, he ſtill firmly adhered to thoſe principles of freedom, which Fox and himſelf had been accuſtomed to conſider as the genuine grounds of the Britiſh revolution in 1688.

Since the commencement of the preſent war, a period, during which the colliſions of party-ſpirit have become more fierce and violent than before, various practices, too mean and diſhonourable to be worthy of aught but contemptuous oblivion, have been recurred to, in order to hurt the character and diminiſh the practice of Henry Erſkine, by men who could not win his virtue to their ſide, and who were deſirous to diminiſh that aſcendency to which they could not aſpire in the career of generous emulation. But talents, fortune, and character, ſuch as his, may deſpiſe calumny, and ſmile at the impotence of malice. W.

LORD CHARLEMONT.

WHEN high rank is united with great virtues, and both are embelliſhed by learning, taſte, and talents, we then ſee man in his proudeſt form; we overlook or forget all that is weak, frail, and mortal, in human nature, and look up to him as a being of a

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ſuperior order. Such a character is the Earl of Charlemont; a nobleman, on whom, even in times of the moſt imminent danger, neither turbulence nor ſlander has dared to caſt an aſperſion.

Of his lordſhip's early life, a great part was ſpent abroad; charmed with the arts, the climate, and the language of Italy, it was for many years his favourite reſidence. With the reſt of the world, however, he was intimately acquainted; as at every court which a young nobleman generally viſits, he ſpent more than the uſual time. In all, he was reſpected and beloved; and he has been heard to ſay, that when he returned home, there was not a country in Europe in which he was not more known, and had not more of thoſe connexions which ſweeten life, than in his native Ireland!

Home, however, his lordſhip at length returned, at about the age of thirty, and this is ſaid to have been haſtened by a diſorder contracted, as is ſuppoſed, from poiſon, adminiſtered by the jealouſy of a woman with whom he had an amorous intercourſe. Of this diſorder, the malignity had baffled the efficacy of all the medical ſkill which his lordſhip found abroad, and it remained for the honour of an Iriſh phyſician, if not radically to remove the diſeaſe, at leaſt to alleviate its force, and preſerve a life which was to be the ornament and pride of his country. The phyſician in queſtion was the celebrated Dr. Lucas, a man diſtinguiſhed, not more by the ſucceſs of his medical exertions in his Lordſhip's caſe, than by the zeal and energy which

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he has displayed as a political writer, and a popular representative.

Having thus recovered a moderate share of health by the skill of this Irish patriot, and prescribed for himself a degree of temperance and strictness of regimen which few men would have had the steadiness to observe, his lordship began to think of an heir. Although accustomed to view beauty in its most fascinating forms amidst the brilliancy of courts, the splendour of wealth, and the attractions of polished manners; he did not seek these qualities in a wife. He married, in 1768, a Miss Hickman, a young lady, the daughter of a provincial clergyman, possessed of good sense, and a most amiable disposition; therefore, better chosen than if recommended byhigh birth, riches, or beauty: in consequence of this marriage, his lordship has several children; the eldest, Francis William, Lord Caulfield, is a young nobleman who it is reasonable to hope, will emulate the virtues of his father.

Lord Charlemont having felt, from his early residence abroad, the mortification of being a stranger in his native country, resolved that his son should have a domestic education. Lord Caulfield was, therefore, educated at the college of Dublin, where he distinguished himself not more for the possession of a sound and masculine understanding, than for precocious industry, and mild, though somewhat reserved, manners.

From the moment in which Lord Charlemont first embarked in public life, he has invariably pro-

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moted the beſt intereſts of the country. He affected not, however, in any inſtance, that popularity which follows rather the ſhewy and inſincere profeſſions of the demagogue, than the wiſe and well-judged meaſures of the diſintereſted ſtateſman who ſerves his country more from a motive of duty than a thirſt of fame. With him, patriotiſm was a virtue which he practiſed for its own ſake, and without attention to any conſequences, except the approbation of his own mind, and a ſtrict attention to the public welfare.

That his political conduct has uniformly reſulted from the pureſt motives, nothing, perhaps, could more ſtrongly prove, than the manner in which his borough of Charlemont has been repreſented. Though his lordſhip does not poſſeſs wealth ſufficient to render the ſeptennial receipt of 4000*l.* (the uſual price for two miſ-repreſentatives!) an object of no importance, yet in no one inſtance has he yielded to the impulſe of venality; for he has never ſold to the higheſt bidder, the office of legiſlator for his country! In the repreſentatives of his borough, his lordſhip required only talents, and virtue; and it has been his peculiar good fortune to have always ſelected men eminently poſſeſſed of both.

Among thoſe who have ſat for Charlemont ſince it fell into his lordſhip's hands, Mr. Grattan is the moſt conſpicuous; and it was the member for this borough who wrought the independence of Ireland. In the Houſe of Peers, his lordſhip contributed to that great event, if not by his elo-

quence (for he is not a public ſpeaker), at leaſt by his vote, his influence, and his example.

Theſe virtues and ſervices of Lord Charlemont were neither unobſerved nor unrewarded by the public. He was accordingly raiſed by the unanimous voice of the people, more fully and faithfully expreſſed than it had been on any former occaſion, to the moſt honourable ſituation which it was in their power to beſtow, that of commander-in-chief of an army ſelf-appointed, and ſelf-paid, conſiſting of 80,000 freemen, including all the gentry and the nobility of the kingdom. To this command of the Old Volunteer army of Ireland, he was for ſeveral years ſucceſſively elected; nor did the relation between that extraordinary body of men and his lordſhip ceaſe, until a difference of political opinion had ariſen, which induced him to reſign. That difference aroſe on the queſtion of admitting the Catholics to participate in the power of the ſtate. The idea was firſt broached in an addreſs from the volunteers of Ulſter to his lordſhip, at a time when they had been reviewed by him in the neighbourhood of Belfaſt. He, in very plain, but very polite and reſpectful terms, expreſſed, in his anſwer, his difference of opinion on that queſtion. A diſcordance of ſentiment on a point of ſuch moment, muſt have been fatal to that cordiality of affection which had alone reconciled him to the troubleſome, though highly honourable, ſituation to which he had been raiſed; he therefore, ſhortly afterwards, reſigned his command; and govern-

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ment having, for ſome time before, withdrawn its countenance from the volunteer army, it gradually dwindled into inſignificance.

That his lordſhip was either morally or politically correct, in an opinion which tended to perpetuate political incapacities on account of religious tenets, would, perhaps, be difficult to prove; but that he acted on that occaſion, as on all others, rather from a conſciouſneſs of right, than a view to popular applauſe, cannot be doubted, for to his popularity nothing at that time could have been ſo fatal. There was, however, ſomething in his character which diſarmed political invective, even while aggravated by religious animoſity. The moſt virulent of thoſe who blamed his conduct ſeemed to heſitate in calling him a bigot.

Of a reform in the repreſentation his lordſhip has been long a friend, and was among the firſt of thoſe noblemen and gentlemen, who, when the queſtion was agitated, and the great difficulty appeared to be, how individuals ſhould be ſatisfied for the annihilation of their property, made an offer of a voluntary ſurrender of their boroughs to the public.

On the queſtion of the regency, too, he adopted that ſide which alone was thought compatible with the independence of Ireland. He was one of thoſe, who, in oppoſition to the partizans of Mr. Pitt, aſſerted the right of that kingdom to appoint its own regent; and as they conſtituted a majority in the two Houſes, they accordingly offered the re-

gency to the heir apparent. For this, and ſome other political offences, he was ſhortly afterwards removed from the government of the county of Armagh, an office to which he might be almoſt ſaid to have an hereditary right.

In a mind like that of his lordſhip, cultivated, vigorous, and pure, error is ſeldom a plant of perennial growth. The opinion which he ſo honeſtly entertained, and ſo boldly avowed to the volunteer army of 1784, he ſeems to have ſince changed for thoſe of a more liberal complexion, as he has of late ſupported the Catholic claim to the elective franchiſe, which parliament acceded to in 1796, and is at preſent an advocate for what is called *Catholic emancipation*.

Of that ſyſtem of coercion which preceded the late inſurrection in Ireland;—of the burning of villages; hanging their inhabitants; tranſporting perſons ſuſpected, without trial; ſtrangling and whipping to extort confeſſion; and billeting the military at free quarters, in diſtricts in which individuals had been diſorderly;—his lordſhip has been uniformly the declared enemy. He, therefore, was one of the very few who ſupported Lord Moira in his parliamentary reprobation of theſe meaſures, and in recommending thoſe of peace and conciliation. Nothing, however, can be more remote from his character, than that of a factious man, or a ſyſtematic oppoſitioniſt. He has ſupported Great Britain in the war, merely becauſe Great Britain was engaged in it, without any rela-

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tion to the abſtract merit of the conteſt; and he has acceded cheerfully to every law, and every meaſure, which the government thought neceſſary, againſt the aſſault of foreign force, or domeſtic diſaffection.

Unexceptionable, however, as Lord Charlemont's political conduct has been, it is not as a politician that he is excluſively entitled to our regard. He is more highly eſtimable, perhaps, as a man of taſte and literature. As a general ſcholar, he has not his equal in the Iriſh peerage. Poſſeſſing a reſpectable knowledge of the learned languages, he is alſo intimately acquainted with thoſe of modern Europe, particularly the Italian, in which he is an adept. To his love of letters, Ireland owes, in a great meaſure, the eſtabliſhment of the only literary ſociety (except the univerſity) which ſhe poſſeſſes, namely, the Royal Iriſh Academy, which was incorporated, by royal charter, in 1786, and of which his lordſhip has, ſince its foundation, been annually elected preſident. Of this office, he diſcharges the duties *con amore*, conſtantly attending its meetings, unleſs when ill health prevents, preſiding with a father's care over its concerns, and occaſionally contributing to fill the pages of its Tranſactions. In theſe volumes his lordſhip has publiſhed three eſſays, which are highly reſpectable; one on a conteſted paſſage in Herodotus; another on an ancient cuſtom at Mityline, with conſiderations on its origin; and a third on the antiquity of the woollen manu-

facture in Ireland, which he has proved from ſome paſſages in the Italian poets.

Theſe, however, conſtitute but a ſmall part of what his lordſhip has written. To ſome of his friends he has ſhewn, at various times, materials for larger works, with which it is to be feared, the public will not be favoured during his life; and they will, probably, be left to the mercy of a poſthumous editor.

Among the lovers and the judges of the fine arts, he holds a very conſpicuous rank. At his houſe in Rutland-ſquare, Dublin, is to be ſeen a moſt reſpectable collection of the great maſters in painting and ſculpture, both ancient and modern; and of his taſte in architecture, his temple of Marino, within a couple of miles of the metropolis, is a beautiful ſpecimen.

In parliament he has never been a ſpeaker; he ſeems to want nerves for an orator, and to be ſolicitous rather of the pleaſures of ſtudy, than of thoſe raptures which reſult from the involuntary burſts of an applauding auditory. In converſation he is communicative, affable, and cheerful, in an extraordinary degree; equally apt to catch as to impart ſatisfaction: nor is it the frippery of fancy which eſcapes him; the effuſions of his full mind flow like the waters of a deep river, at once placid and majeſtic, uniform and profound.

Of his time he is remarkably economical; every hour has its allotted occupation, nor is this arrangement varied but on occaſions of conſiderable moment.

moment. So regular is he even in his rides, that you might aſcertain the time of the day to a minute by the ſpot on which you find him. His figure is exceedingly venerable, and ſtriking. Upwards of ſixty, his long grey hairs, and bending form, give him the appearance of much greater age, while the placidity and ſtrength of his countenance irreſiſtibly impreſs the idea, that wiſdom and virtue have been the companions of his life. It is a remarkable circumſtance, that the precarious ſtate of his health, ſince his partial recovery from the diſaſter of his youth, has made it neceſſary for him to uſe the cold bath throughout the year; and even in the depth of the ſevereſt winter, he has not dared to intermit the practice.

HENRY GRATTAN.

HENRY GRATTAN was born in the capital of Ireland, about the year 1751. His father, an eminent barriſter, though poſſeſſing conſiderable talents, and deriving a competent ſhare of practice from the good opinion entertained of his ſkill and integrity by the citizens of Dublin, yet never roſe to any high legal ſituation. The Recorderſhip of the city, a place at that time worth about 600*l. per annum*, and to which the corporation elect, was the only office he ever filled. To wealth, accumulated by the induſtry or the ſucceſs of his anceſtors, Henry, therefore, could not look; he was accord-

ingly taught early to depend for his future fame and fortune on his own exertions.

At the uſual time he was entered a ſtudent of Trinity college, Dublin, where he was ſoon diſtinguiſhed as the powerful competitor of two claſs-fellows, whoſe good fortune and talents have ſince raiſed them to the higheſt ſituations in the ſtate, Mr. Fitzgibbon, late Chancellor of Ireland, and Mr. Forſter, the late Speaker of the Houſe of Commons.

Of ſome of the moſt ſhining characters which the Dublin univerſity has given to the world, it has been obſerved, that during their reſidence in that ſeminary their talents were not exerciſed, or their powers known: Mr. Edmund Burke exhibits one memorable inſtance in behalf of this aſſertion: but in reſpect to Mr. G. and his celebrated contemporaries, that colliſion which reſults from a rivalry of acquirements and talents, called forth a full exertion of the mental faculties, and they were therefore diſtinguiſhed as men poſſeſſing firſt-rate parts, before they were called to exhibit them on the theatre of life. After taking a degree, Mr. G. was, in 1772, called to the Iriſh bar, and for a few years attended the four courts with an empty bag, and a mind too elaſtic to be confined to the forms of pleading, and too liberal to be occupied by the purſuits of a mere lawyer.

Diſguſted at laſt with a profeſſion, in which he perceived he would never riſe but by habits to which he could not crouch; he retired, not wealthy,

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but poſſeſſing from his father, who was now dead, a patrimony, which, with economy, might have ſecured him independence. It was not long before he was made known to Lord Charlemont, who had for ſome time returned to Ireland. By his lordſhip, who has always ſhewn equal ſagacity in diſcovering and zeal in promoting genius, he was returned to parliament for his borough of Charlemont. Entering into the legiſlature under ſuch auſpices, it was natural to expect that Mr. G. would become the advocate of his then ſuffering and dependent country. Ireland, indeed, at that time, was in a ſtate of perfect humiliation, being conſidered merely as a province to the ſiſter country.

Her legiſlature was a petty council, incapable of originating laws; and her courts of juſtice ſubordinate to thoſe of England, and incompetent to a final deciſion: deſtitute of foreign commerce, from which ſhe had been excluded by Britiſh monopoly; her manufactures were cruſhed by the weight of Britiſh competition, and the induſtry of her people checked from want of encouragement: in ſhort, diſcontent, bankruptcy, and wretchedneſs, covered the face of the country.

To evils of ſuch magnitude, and which the calamities brought on by the unfortunate conteſt with America greatly aggravated; the narrow policy of the times was applying petty palliatives. Subſcriptions were collected, to keep the artificers from famiſhing; aſſociations were formed, to wear only domeſtic manufactures; and parliament itſelf look-

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ed no further than to alleviate the preſſure of the immediate evil. Mr. G. however, whoſe mind was formed to embrace ſomething beyond preſent objects; who was accuſtomed to trace effects to their cauſes, and to look forward to future conſequences; perceived, that the root of thoſe calamities was not a temporary ſtagnation of trade from the American war, but rather to be found in the unjuſt reſtraints impoſed by Great Britain on the exertions of the country; and that to attempt their cure by temporary expedients, would be to roll up the ſtone of Syſiphus.

He was the firſt, therefore, who had the boldneſs and the wiſdom to urge the legiſlature to complain of thoſe reſtraints; his efforts were ſeconded by the unanimous voice of the country; and ſuch was the efficacy of a political truth, thus urged, and thus ſupported, that even the whole force of Britiſh influence was found unequal to reſiſt it. The Iriſh legiſlature adopted, and decreed the ſentiment; and after ſome heſitation on the part of the Britiſh parliament, the commerce of Ireland was, in part, opened to her children. A temporary gleam of ſatisfaction was ſhed over the country by this *conceſſion*, as it was called, of the Britiſh parliament: for ſo accuſtomed had the people been to excluſion, to penalties, and reſtriction, that a relaxation or ſuſpenſion of any of theſe was looked on as the conferring of a poſitive benefit, rather than the ceſſation of an actual injury.

Mr. G.'s name was now become an object of

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adoration to the people, and by the volunteer aſſociations, which the dangers of the war had called forth, he was looked up to with peculiar reſpect. In this ſtate of affairs, the re-action of popularity upon patriotiſm ſeemed to impart new energy to his mind.

Mr. G. continued to exert himſelf with indefatigable aſſiduity in the ſenate, and by leading the mind of the public, and even of the legiſlature itſelf, to the conſideration of national rights, and the actual political ſituation of their common country with reſpect to England, he was clearing the way for that meaſure which he meditated—a declaration of the legiſlature in favour of national independence.

By obtaining freedom of commerce for the country, he had already, indeed, done much toward the attainment of the great object; for he had removed the key-ſtone of the arch, and thus weakened the coheſion of the whole fabric:—he had taught the people to think, and the legiſlature to feel its own power;—he had introduced a ſpirit of innovation upon the old ſyſtem of Britiſh domination; and the vigour with which innovations on ſuch ſyſtems are oppoſed, proves their malign efficacy. Mr. G. therefore, who obſerved with pleaſure, no doubt, the operation of thoſe cauſes on the public mind, endeavoured by an induſtrious exertion of oratorical powers in the ſenate, to increaſe their force, and ſecond their effect. His eloquence, of a caſt more warm and animated than

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either parliament or the people had uſually felt, and exerted upon ſubjects reſpecting which the human mind is ſuſceptible of the greateſt degree of enthuſiaſtic fervor, was gratified by complete ſucceſs. Directed by a ſagacious underſtanding, which could catch the moment propitious to exertion, and proportion its zeal to its object, his parliamentary ſpeeches taught a ſubjugated nation to pant for independence; while the public voice, highly animated by the ſubject, and ſeconded by the loud aſſent of 80,000 men in arms (for to ſo many did the volunteer aſſociations amount!) kindled even in the cold boſom of parliament itſelf, a deſire to aſſert its dignity, and reſcue its authority from the gripe of Britiſh uſurpation.

Of this ſentiment, ſo novel in an Iriſh legiſlature, that had long forgotten the pride of independence—of this energy, which ariſing from extrinſic circumſtances, rather than a native and internal principle of virtue, was therefore likely ſoon to vaniſh, when thoſe circumſtances ſhould ceaſe to exiſt—Mr. G. availed himſelf; he caught, as he inſpired, the generous flame; and by one of thoſe extraordinary diſplays of impaſſioned eloquence, to which even the eloquent cannot riſe, but when a momentous object ſeems to furniſh adequate powers, he gave riſe to the celebrated declaration, that the King, Lords, and Commons of Ireland only, could make laws to bind Ireland, in any caſe whatſoever.

Mr. Grattan's popularity was now at its *acmé*.

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The achievement of a nation's independence by an individual, unaided by any force or any influence but that which genius and which truth afford, was conſidered as the reſult of talents and of virtue almoſt above the lot of humanity. The legiſlature itſelf ſeemed for once to participate in the feelings of the people, for in the fervor of admiration, it was propoſed that £.100,000 ſhould be voted him, as a mark of approbation.

In its full extent, this propoſition was not adopted, for on a ſubſequent ſitting, when the vote was before the Committee, they reduced it, at the expreſs inſtance of his own particular friends, to £.50,000; to that amount, however, the grant was confirmed, and Mr. G. actually received the money *.

The declaration of rights of the Iriſh legiſlature, however unwelcome it muſt have been to the miniſter and parliament of England, was received here with that kind of placid acquieſcence with which we aſſent to what is inevitable. A negociation was immediately inſtituted between the two nations, which terminated in the repeal of the 6th of Geo. I. the act by which the Britiſh Parliament declared its right to bind Ireland by Britiſh ſtatutes.

On the ſubject of this repeal, a queſtion aroſe, which ſuſpended, for a conſiderable time, Mr.

* This money has not been applied ſolely to his own uſe, for we could record many exalted inſtances of generoſity, one, in particular, exerted towards a meritorious artiſt, whom he ſent abroad at his own expence.

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G's. popularity. It was contended by Mr. Flood, a gentleman, who, though he did not originate the meaſure of declaring the legiſlative independence of the country, yet co-operated to promote it, that as the 6th of Geo. I. was an act only declaratory of a right, aſſerted by the Britiſh Parliament to have been veſted in it prior to the enaction of that ſtatute, the "ſimple repeal" of the ſtatute did not involve a renunciation of the right; and he inſiſted, that, notwithſtanding that repeal, Great Britain might, and from her former conduct towards Ireland probably would, reſume the exerciſe of it. He therefore adviſed the legiſlature to demand of the Britiſh parliament, a full and explicit renunciation of all claim in future to bind Ireland. This opinion was adopted by the people; and carrying with it all the force which reaſon or experience can give to a propoſition in politics, met very powerful ſupport even in both houſes of parliament. Mr. Grattan, whoſe ſagacity this objection to a ſimple repeal had eluded, and who, from a principle of vanity, perhaps, which has its ſtrong hold even in minds of the firſt claſs, affected the excluſive honour of originating and conducting the emancipation of his country, applied all his power of reaſon, of ſophiſtry, and of eloquence, to combat this doctrine of Mr. Flood.

He contended, that the repeal of a declaratory law, accompanied by ſuch circumſtances as had attended this, muſt be conſidered, and would by

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the world be conſidered, as implying a renunciation of the right; but, even if it were not ſo, and that Great Britain ſhould be ſo unjuſt and impolitic as to reſume the right, when ſhe ſhould recover means to ſupport it by power, an explicit renunciation would be but a ſlender defence againſt injuſtice, ſupported by force; that in ſuch circumſtances, the true ſecurity of the people would conſiſt, not in an act of parliament, but in that patriotic energy which would enable them to defend, as it had already enabled them to aſſert, their independence; and that to force Great Britain, in this her hour of diſtreſs, to confeſs herſelf an uſurper, by an expreſs renunciation of a right which ſhe had exerciſed, would be as ungenerous to her, as it would be uſeleſs to Ireland.

With the people theſe arguments had no weight, and in the ſenate they were borne down by the irreſiſtible force of truth and experience, ſeconded by the powerful and logical eloquence of Mr. Flood. In popular eſtimation, indeed, Mr. G's. character had been falling for ſome time; it was certain he had received the money which parliament had voted him; and it was inſinuated, that for the prompt payment of it, and other conſiderations, he had engaged with adminiſtration to counteract the independence which his former exertions had obtained. But in ſuch inſinuations there is the beſt reaſon to believe there was not even a ſhadow of truth. It is, however, certain, that in the conteſt with Mr. Flood, on the efficiency

ency of a ſimple repeal, Mr. G. not only reaſoned weakly, but that in many inſtances, connected with that diſpute, he acted intemperately. On one occaſion particularly, he pronounced a philippic againſt Mr. Flood, which was leſs diſtinguiſhed by genius and point, than by acerbity and virulence. His antagoniſt replied, perhaps in a ſtyle too much like that of his opponent. Both parties immediately left the Houſe of Commons, but were prevented from terminating the conteſt in a duel, by being inſtantly put under arreſt, and bound in a large ſum to keep the peace. Mr. Flood, in the courſe of the next evening, pronounced one of his beſt ſpeeches, containing a hiſtory and defence of his former political life, which had been on the preceding night violently arraigned by Mr. Grattan. Mr. G. endeavoured to reply, but was prevented by the clamours of the houſe.

Fruſtrated in the hope of carrying on excluſively to its completion, a revolution (for ſuch it may be called) which he had ſo ſucceſsfully and honourably commenced, and finding the tide of popularity now running ſtrong againſt him, Mr. G. ſeems for ſome time to have completely ſecluded himſelf from politics. During this interval, he married a lady of the name of Fitzgerald, not, however, as the name would indicate, of the Leinſter family, but one who poſſeſſed qualities much more valuable than thoſe of high birth or great connexions, for ſhe is a woman of the moſt angelic diſpoſition, and of whom Mr. G. remains, after a lapſe of ſo

many

many years, what he had been in a very high degree before his marriage, an enamoured lover.

Though Mr. G. during this period, did not take an active part in political affairs, he remained ſtill in parliament, and voted as his conſcience bade, ſometimes with, and ſometimes againſt the miniſter. Towards the cloſe of the year 1785, when, under cover of a commercial arrangement, it was ſuppoſed a deſign had been formed by the Britiſh miniſtry to ſubvert the newly-acquired independence of the Iriſh parliament, we find him again alert and vigilant at his poſt. Among the celebrated propoſals which were then offered to the Houſe of Commons in Ireland, by an agent of the crown, and which are ſtill remembered and execrated in that country by the name of "Ord's Propoſitions," one was, "that the Parliament of Ire-
"land, in conſideration of being admitted to
"participate equally with Great Britain in all
"commercial advantages, ſhould, from time to
"time, *adopt* and *enact* all ſuch acts of the Britiſh
"Parliament as ſhould relate to the regulation or
"management of her commerce," &c. This, it was contended, would ſink the Parliament of Ireland into a mere regiſter to the Britiſh Legiſlature. Whether or not this would really be the caſe, or whether there was any thing unreaſonable in ſtipulating, that the country which was admitted to ſhare in the commerce of another, ſhould adopt the ſame commercial regulations; it is certain, that this opinion was entertained not only by the

public in general, but by ſome of the ableſt men in both Houſes, and among them by Mr. G. who gave to the whole ſyſtem the moſt unqualified and ſtrenuous oppoſition. This oppoſition proved ſucceſsful, the meaſure was relinquiſhed, and Mr. G. thenceforward continued to reſiſt, with the moſt zealous and perſevering firmneſs, what he called the principles of the "Old Court;" principles which he looked on as tending to degrade Ireland, by corruption and influence, to the ſame deſpicable and miſerable ſtate in which ſhe had been reduced previouſly to the year 1783.

From this period, we find Mr. G. an active leader of the country party in the Houſe of Commons; loved by the people, and dreaded by the cabinet. His popularity, which had ſo ſuddenly ſunk, on his acceptance of the parliamentary boon, and his ſupport of the ſimple repeal, had now riſen to its former level; and the nation found, that, notwithſtanding one unfortunate deviation, he was ſtill an upright and independent ſenator. Among the various meaſures which now occupied his attention, was the eſtabliſhment of a proviſion for the clergy, independent of tythes. For many years the peaſantry of the ſouth of Ireland, who were excluſively Catholics, had been diſcontented, not ſo much with the payment of tythes to Proteſtant paſtors, as with the rigid and oppreſſive manner in which they had been collected by proctors and tythe-farmers. That portion of the country had been kept, by this cauſe, for almoſt half

a century

a century in disturbance; and, in some instances, it had affected the province of Ulster. Mr. G. proposed a measure which would have removed every discontent, and at the same time have secured a provision for the clergy, equal to that which they then possessed, easy and certain to them, and to the peasantry neither oppressive nor unpleasant. This plan was, however, opposed by the collective influence of the established church, and of course rejected by the legislature. Another measure which he proposed to Parliament about the same time, viz. a bill to promote the improvement of barren land, by exempting reclaimed ground from the payment of tythe, for seven years—was but little calculated to restore the favour of the priesthood; they accordingly resisted and defeated the project, and continued thenceforward to hate, if not to calumniate, its author.

The Whig-club had for some time become a political body of considerable consideration. Mr. G. was one of the first, if not the very first member, in point of talent and popularity. At his instance it was, that the members who had been, since its institution, the advocates of a liberal system, which they considered necessary to the security of the constitution, and independence of the country, came now to a resolution, by which they publicly pledged themselves never to accept offices under any administration, which should not concede certain measures to the people:—these consisted principally of a pension-bill, a bill to

make the great officers of the crown reſponſible for their advice and meaſures, another to prevent revenue officers from voting at elections, a place-bill, &c. This explicit declaration of a ſincere and fixed purpoſe reſpecting theſe eſſential ſubjects, gave the ſociety much weight with the public, and enabled them, after a long oppoſition on the part of adminiſtration, to effect their purpoſe; a penſion-bill, a plea-bill, a reſponſibility-bill, were at laſt yielded by the court party, as conceſſions of the firſt importance, though they had for ſo many years reſiſted them as unneceſſary and unwiſe.

The celebrity which Mr. G. had attained by his oppoſition to Mr. Orde's ſyſtem, and his ſubſequent exertions in the popular cauſe, procured for him, in the year 1790, an honourable and eaſy election, as repreſentative for the metropolis.

During the exiſtence of the parliament which then commenced, there occurred, however, a queſtion, on which Mr. G. and a very conſiderable proportion of his conſtituents materially differed; this was, the claim of the Catholics to the elective franchiſe. From his firſt entrance into parliament, with a mind as liberal as it was enlightened, he had always been the decided friend of every meaſure which tended to aboliſh thoſe political diſtinctions, which were founded only on a difference of religious tenets; for he conceived that ſuch diſtinctions had retarded the progreſs of the country towards civilization and induſtry.

The corporation of the city of Dublin, on the contrary,

contrary, prone, by ſituation and habit, to religious bigotry, looked on the Catholics at once with ſuſpicion and contempt. Enjoying a monopoly of municipal honour and emoluments, by the excluſion of all who profeſſed a different faith, from the franchiſes of the capital, they conſidered every attempt to reſtore them to thoſe franchiſes as an attack on their property, or a violation of their rights. Beſides theſe cauſes, the adminiſtration had, by ſome recent inſtitutions, obtained a paramount influence in the corporation; and to perpetuate religious diſtinctions, which had hitherto kept Ireland weak, was ſtill the court policy. This influence, therefore, operating in conjunction with other cauſes, rendered the municipal officers of Dublin incapable of participating in that encreaſed liberality of ſentiment which had now every where begun to diſſipate prejudice, and diſpel bigotry. On the queſtion of admitting the Catholics to the privileges of the conſtitution, the corporation and Mr. G. accordingly differed; and had not circumſtances occurred which prevented him from becoming again a candidate for the capital, there was no chance of his being a ſecond time elected its repreſentative.

The war with France had now taken place; Mr. Grattan approved of it, or rather he affected to conſider Ireland as bound, with all its might, to aſſiſt Great Britain when once engaged in the conteſt. This, at leaſt, was the opinion entertained by him during the ſhort adminiſtration of

Lord Fitzwilliam; and in this opinion he remained, until he found that the continuation of hoſtilities threatened the empire with ruin, either from the incapacity of thoſe by whom it was conducted, or the murmurs which it occaſioned. In Ireland, indeed, diſcontent had been ſpreading with incalculable velocity, and deepening as it ſpread. The pertinacity and inſolence with which adminiſtration had rejected the petitions of the Catholics, and the rapidity and inconſiſtency with which they granted the prayer of thoſe petitions, at the firſt ſuggeſtion of the Britiſh cabinet; the obſtinacy with which they refuſed ever to hear of a reform, the advocates of which were blackened with abuſe, and calumniated as traitors; the enormous increaſe of court-influence, by the ſhameleſs and wanton increaſe of ſinecure offices, the laviſh profuſion of titles; and above all, the trick which it was ſuppoſed the Britiſh cabinet had played off on Ireland, by ſending Lord Fitzwilliam with conceſſions which were revoked when the ſupply was voted; all theſe cauſes had already generated a degree of diſcontent in the country, of which no inſtance had been known in former times.

The celebrated Society of United Iriſhmen, who aſſociated (whatever their real principles might have been) under the pretext of reform, derived from theſe diſcontents new vigour: they had diſſeminated their principles through the iſland, and

and they were already embraced, by a great portion of the population of the country.

Mr. G. perceiving the danger in which the ſtate was involved by this ſyſtem of miniſters, conſtantly reſiſted it with all his power. He was ſeconded by a ſmall, but active and able oppoſition, which left no exertion untried to reconcile the court and the country, by adviſing meaſures which would have ranged every moderate and good man on the ſide of parliament and the throne, and thus have weakened the republican and French factions, which had now become ſo powerful. Theſe efforts were, unfortunately, not ſucceſsful. Inſtead of conciliating, adminiſtration continued to exaſperate; and ſcorning to reſort to lenitives, applied the moſt powerful cauſtics: for every meaſure of moderation, or conceſſion, which was propoſed by Mr. G. and his party, one of ſeverity and coercion was ſubſtituted, until the cabinet ultimately arrived at military law, and free quarters! At that critical moment, Mr. G. who could no longer hope, by his preſence in the ſenate, to ſerve his country, ſeceded; and, at the cloſe of the parliament, publiſhed a very eloquent and ſpirited addreſs to his former conſtituents, accounting for his paſt conduct, and formally declining to accept of a ſeat in the legiſlature.

Such are the leading facts which have marked the life of one who, whatever may be thought of him by his opponents, while the fever of politics continues to agitate the human mind, will have

his merits and defects examined fairly by posterity, and, in all probability, be acknowledged by them as a great man.

Of his private life there is but little generally known, because little has occurred in it to interest attention. It has passed on in a smooth manner, marked equally by the practice of every conjugal and domestic virtue. If there be any of his good qualities which verge on the confines of vice, it is his economy, of which it has been asserted, that it approaches towards penuriousness, if it does not reach that point. It has been often said, that though he received, in early life, from the liberality of his country, a very handsome addition to his patrimony, he never displayed, either in private or public, a munificent disposition *. But it should be remembered, that the fortune which Mr. G. obtained then, constituted nearly the whole of his acquisitions: he practised in no profession, he accepted no place, and he soon saw a young family rising around him, for which the whole was not a very ample provision: for he has four children; the eldest a boy of fifteen years of age.

In private life, Mr. G. displays manners that are in a high degree pleasing. Wit he seems not to possess, and he has a cast of mind too lofty for humour; but if he does not "set the table in a

* It is but candid here to state, in opposition to the above, that Mr. G. has patronised and assisted a painter of great expectation, now in Italy, who had no other claims on his generosity, than his merit, his youth, and his poverty.

roar,"

roar," or dazzle with the radiance of fancy, he diffuſes over the convivial hour the mild charms of good-humour, and ſoftens ſociety with unaſſuming gentleneſs.

In converſation he appears to great advantage; for, with a mind well ſtored with uſeful learning, and converſant on every topic which occurs, he has a felicity of expreſſion, which communicates his meaning in the moſt conciſe and impreſſive manner: he is not argumentative, but when an argument is inſtituted, his opinions are urged with great modeſty, but with great ſtrength, and if victor in the conteſt, he generouſly relinquiſhes the field to the vanquiſhed.

Of Mr. G's political opinions, the complexion may be known from the meaſures which he has ſupported, and the tenor of his parliamentary conduct. As they have ſtruck the mind of the writer, they appear to be ſtrongly *monarchical*, and *democratical* only ſo far as our conſtitution requires them to be; at the ſame time leaning towards a perpetuity of union between the two countries, and yet decidedly adverſe to the exiſtence of any Britiſh influence in Ireland, diſtinct from that which the union of the two crowns on the head of a Britiſh prince renders indiſpenſable. That he ſhould, therefore, be connected with a ſociety of men whoſe aim was ſeparation from England, and the eſtabliſhment of an Iriſh republic, ſeems, in the higheſt degree, improbable. The luſtre of his name, however, ſuffered a temporary eclipſe; and

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ſo ſhort-lived is municipal gratitude, that it was actually expunged from a city which he has rendered flouriſhing *, at the very ſame time that it was ſtruck from the liſt of privy-counſellors †.

As a public ſpeaker, Mr. G. ranks in the higheſt claſs. In his orations there is a grandeur which marks a mind of ſuperior order, and enforces at once, reverence and admiration. On every ſubject which he treats, he throws a radiance that enlightens without dazzling; and while it aſſiſts the judgment, delights the imagination. His ſtyle is always peculiar, for it varies its character with the occaſion. At one time cloſe and energetic, it concentrates the force of his argument, and compels conviction; at another, diffuſe, lofty, and magnificent, it applies itſelf to every faculty of the mind, charms our fancy, influences our will, and convinces our underſtanding. At all times his manner is animated with a pleaſing warmth, which renders it impoſſible to hear him without intereſt; but on ſome occaſions he exerts a power which is irreſiſtible. Proſtitution, under its influence, forgets for a moment the voice of the miniſter, and

* *Cork, Sept.* 29.—"By order of the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Common-Council of the city of Cork, the public are deſired to take notice, that the ſtreet hitherto named *Grattan-ſtreet*, is, in future, to be called *Duncan-ſtreet*."

† Since the agitation of the important queſtion reſpecting an Union, the enemies of Mr. G. ſeem to have been aſhamed of their conduct towards him; and he actually, at this moment, bids fair to be as popular as ever.

place,

place, penſion, and peerage, have but a feeble hold even of the moſt degenerate.

To the excellence of his ſtyle he does not add the graces of action; it is forcible, indeed, and ſometimes expreſſive, but it is ſeldom elegant, and never pleaſing. To invective, to which Mr. G. has ſometimes deigned to have recourſe, his manner is better adapted than to the ſedateneſs of cool diſquiſition; and yet invective is not that in which he principally excels: he is more fitted by nature, and happily the ſituation he has filled has more frequently called him, to defend the rights of nations, and to pourtray the hopes, the fears, the expectations of a magnanimous people, than to deſcend to a wordy conteſt with individuals; though, when that conteſt has been inſtituted, the weapons of Mr. G. have been found ſharp, if not poliſhed, and capable of inflicting wounds which refuſed to be healed. W.

SIR WILLIAM SYDNEY SMITH.

THE great Admiral Howard, who lived in the reign of King Henry the eighth, was wont to ſay, that "a certain portion of madneſs was neceſſary to enter into the compoſition of an Engliſh ſeaman." We know not whether this aſſertion ought to be admitted in its full extent; yet the fact is, that ſome of our moſt celebrated naval characters have obtained

obtained renown for deeds which appear to cold-blooded men to ſavour of deſperation, as well as of valour.

It is not our intention to detract from any man's merits, who has been, or is now engaged in the ſervice of his country, either by ſea or land; but we are forced to ſay, that our admiration is not ſo much excited by thoſe dazzling exploits which pleaſe the populace, as by the more ſteady and extenſive operations of ſuch magnanimous, but prudent commanders, who are rather bent upon general good, than romantic adventures. Each, however, has his portion of merit; and he who hazards his perſon with alacrity, in behalf of the country for which he fights, muſt always claim our reſpect.

Sir William Sydney Smith was born in the metropolis, A.D. 1764. His * father was a Captain in the army, and his mother the daughter of Mr.

* Captain Smith was *aide-de-camp* to Lord George Germaine, at the battle of Minden, and was examined as an evidence on his trial. His teſtimony on that occaſion is ſaid to have ſaved the life of his protector.

Having encountered ſome obloquy, in conſequence of his zeal, the Duke of Dorſet, who was greatly attached to his younger ſon, Lord George, very properly took captain S. into favour; and, among other gifts, preſented him with a grant of land at the foot of Dover-caſtle, on which he has built a whimſical houſe. Some adjoining apartments are excavated from the rock, and the kitchen, &c. are roofed with boats. There is a tower, called "Sir Sydney's look-out;" and the writer of this is informed, that his father, who is a ſtaunch methodiſt, has lately erected a chapel there.

Wilkinſon,

Wilkinſon, a merchant of great eminence in the city. This match was ſo hoſtile to Mr. Wilkinſon's ſentiments, that he not only diſcarded Mrs. Smith in his life-time, but at his death left his whole fortune, which was very conſiderable, to his other daughter, now Lady Camelford.

The ſubject of the preſent notice was educated under Dr. Knox, the truly able and learned maſter of Tunbridge-ſchool; and at an early age was put on board a man-of-war, which profeſſion he had adopted for himſelf. He roſe rapidly, and at the age of ſixteen was fifth lieutenant of the Alcide of ſeventy-four guns; he was made poſt-captain in 1783, at which time the reſtoration of peace prevented him from exerciſing his active ſpirit in the ſervice of his country.

When the war broke out between Ruſſia and Sweden in the year 1788, Captain Smith obtained permiſſion from the Engliſh government to enter into the navy of the latter power, in which he was honoured with a diſtinguiſhed command.

During this conteſt, he gave ſuch ſatisfaction to the court of Sweden by his important ſervices, that the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him; which, however, has not been confirmed by his own ſovereign.

On the termination of that war, he returned to his native country, and ſoon after ſet out on his travels through various parts of Europe.

When hoſtilities broke out between England and France he was in Italy; and on Lord Hood's

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getting poſſeſſion of Toulon, Captain Smith went thither and volunteered on board the Britiſh fleet. In the ſubſequent evacuation of that place, he was entruſted with the dangerous, but important, ſervice, of ſetting fire to the ſhips, dock-yards, and arſenal, which he performed with ſuch ſkill, boldneſs, and ſucceſs, as to call forth the warmeſt encomiums from Lord Hood in his account of that tranſaction to the Admiralty.

On his return to England, he had the command of the Diamond frigate beſtowed on him, with which he greatly annoyed the enemy on their own coaſt, and made ſeveral important and valuable captures. Some other veſſels were afterwards put under his direction, as commodore; with this little ſquadron he performed ſeveral eſſential ſervices, particularly in attacking a French convoy at Herqui, where he landed and demoliſhed the fortifications. At one time Sir Sydney went with his ſingle frigate into Breſt harbour, and having reconnoitred the ſtate of the enemy's ſhips, came out without ſuſpicion. He was enabled to do this, by the very fluent manner with which he ſpeaks the French language.

At length, however, his enterpriſing ſpirit, unfortunately, brought him into a very diſagreeable ſituation. Being off Havre-de-Grace, April 18, 1796, he captured an armed veſſel in the outer-harbour; but the tide making ſtrong up the Seine, ſhe was driven by the force of the current near the forts. When night came on, Sir Sydney, who was determined

mined not to loſe his prize, manned and armed his ſmall craft, and went with them to bring her off. He ſucceeded in boarding her, and was towing her down the river, when an alarm was given, and ſeveral gun-boats proceeded to cut the veſſel off. After an obſtinate reſiſtance, Sir Sydney was at length taken, together with ſixteen of his crew, and three of his officers.

The French were happy at having gained poſſeſſion of one who had been ſo great an eye-ſore to them, and conveyed him to the capital, where he was kept in cloſe confinement, without ever being ſuffered to be at large upon his parole. The Engliſh government, deſirous of his releaſe, ſent over Capt. Bergeret, commander of *La Verginie*, in July following, to be exchanged for him; but the directory refuſing to accede to the terms, the French Captain returned, ſaying, "he preferred death to diſhonour." It was actually one time in contemplation to try Sir Sydney as a ſpy and incendiary, to which the directory were led in conſequence of his conduct at Toulon!

After a long and moſt rigid confinement, he at length effected his eſcape, April 24, 1798, from Paris, and arrived in London May 6th following. The manner in which this occurred, was repreſented in the papers as moſt extraordinary, and little ſhort of miraculous. It was ſtated, that as the officers were conveying him from one priſon to another, a crowd in the ſtreet occaſioned the carriage to ſtop, on which ſome one opened the door, and drew Sir Sydney out, who paſſed unmoleſted

through

through the people, and got into the ſuburbs; whence, by a circuitous courſe, with an emigrant gentleman, he arrived on the ſea-coaſt, where they took to an open boat; and after being at ſea for ſome conſiderable time, were picked up by a Britiſh frigate, which landed him and his companion in Old England. It is not unlikely that the French government took this curious method of releaſing him; for it is hardly within the line of probability that ſuch a man ſhould have eſcaped from his keepers in one of the public ſtreets of Paris, and that too in open day, without the connivance of perſons in power.

His being taken at firſt was the effect of his own imprudence, for certainly there were officers in his ſhip competent enough to the ſervice of boarding and bringing away a paltry privateer, without the neceſſity of the captain's going in perſon. Sir Sydney has ſince been appointed to the command of *Le Tigre*, a ſhip of 80 guns, taken from the French; and in which he ſailed in the latter end of 1798, to the Mediterranean, and is now at Conſtantinople.

THE REV. THOMAS HAWEIS, LL.D. AND M.D.

THIS gentleman is entitled to a place in our collection, as well on account of his reſpectability as a man of letters, as his being if not at the head of, at leaſt greatly reſpected by, that numerous and highly diſtinguiſhed claſs of Chriſtians, commonly called the Calviniſtical Methodiſts.

Dr.

Dr. Haweis is a native of Cornwall, and was educated at the free grammar-ſchool in Truro, where the celebrated Samuel Foote, commonly called the Engliſh Ariſtophanes, was brought up. After receiving a good claſſical education, he was put apprentice to an eminent ſurgeon and apothecary in his native place, and ſerved his time with great credit, on account of his fidelity and application.

Mr. Samuel Walker was, at that time, curate of Truro, and young Mr. Haweis was ſo affected with the preaching and character of that exemplary man, that his whole mind became impreſſed with the love of religion, and the deſire of being a miniſter of the goſpel. His friends were not willing to croſs his inclinations, and he was, therefore, permitted to go to the Univerſity of Cambridge, where he was entered of Chriſt's college, and in due courſe took his degree of LL.B.

Soon after his being admitted to holy orders, he became diſtinguiſhed as a popular preacher, particularly at Oxford, where he delivered a ſeries of diſcourſes, which, in 1760, he publiſhed, under the title of "Evangelical Sermons." Not long after he became aſſiſtant to Mr. Madan, at the chapel of the Lock-hoſpital, and about the ſame time was appointed chaplain to the Counteſs of Huntingdon.

While he officiated at the Lock-chapel, a circumſtance occurred which made a conſiderable noiſe at the time, and brought upon our divine, as well as his friends, much unmerited odium. A gentleman, who uſually attended that place of wor-

ſhip, informed Mr. Madan, that he had a living in his gift, which he wiſhed to beſtow upon ſome miniſter of evangelical ſentiments. Mr. Madan recommended Mr. Haweis, who was ſurpriſed at this generoſity in a ſtranger. Some time after his being inducted to the living of Aldwinkle, in Northamptonſhire, which he now holds, the patron thought proper to make a demand upon him for the preſentation. The matter got into print, much was publiſhed on both ſides, and thoſe who were prejudiced reſpecting the body of Chriſtians to whom Mr. H. belonged, exclaimed vehemently againſt him for his conduct, as well as that of his colleague, Mr. Madan. Time, however, has deſtroyed this prejudice, and we believe there is no perſon ſo uncandid at preſent, as to admit a thought to his diſadvantage, in conſequence of this buſineſs.

About that period, he publiſhed a very uſeful and judicious commentary upon the ſcriptures, entitled, "The Evangelical Expoſitor," in 2 vols. folio.

Mr. H. had the chief management of Lady Huntingdon's extenſive concerns on her death, at which period he found himſelf nominated by her will one of the principal truſtees of her various chapels in town and country*. In 1795, the miſſionary ſociety commenced, formed upon a plan and ſcale certainly more adequate to the object, more promiſing in its appearance, and, as far as it has yet

* He had acted as her Chaplain, for ſeveral years, without accepting of any emolument whatever.

gone,

gone, more proſperous in its operation, than any other that can be mentioned. This inſtitution equally admits churchmen and diſſenters. It is marked, indeed, only by what are called the *evangelical ſentiments*: it pays no regard to differences of opinion on the inferior queſtions of church government, or the manner of public worſhip; but it admits no miſſionaries except ſuch as are firmly grounded in the eſſential doctrines of chriſtianity, particularly the divinity of Chriſt, and the atonement by his death.

At the firſt public meeting of this ſociety, held at Spa-fields chapel, Mr. H. preached a very affecting and maſterly ſermon on the occaſion; and, at a ſubſequent one, he read a memorial, in which he examined the ſubject with the greateſt preciſion and accuracy, and recommended ſtrongly that the firſt miſſion ſhould be to the Friendly Iſlands, in the South-Sea, which meaſure was adopted. This ſermon and memorial were printed in the collection of the ſociety's papers.

In the courſe of the ſame year he obtained, from one of the Scotch univerſities, the degree of doctor of phyſic; and leſt his motives for ſo doing ſhould be miſunderſtood, it may be proper to ſay, that he often gives his advice *gratis*, and viſits poor ſick people at their own habitations. Now, as he was originally brought up to the practice of medicine, there was a propriety in his taking a doctor's degree in that faculty, to render him

competent to give his advice, and to attend conſultations, in the way of benevolence.

In 1797, he publiſhed the life of that eminent and popular divine, Mr. Romaine. This performance does great credit to his talents as a biographer.

The miſſionary concerns ſeem to engroſs his principal attention; and, without doubt, that large and highly honourable ſociety could not have a more able, indefatigable, or faithful adherent. The accounts received from the miſſionaries at the Marqueſes, the Society, and Friendly Iſlands, are very flattering to thoſe who have formed ſtrong expectations reſpecting this new attempt to propagate chriſtianity in heathen lands. We underſtand that the ſociety is not ſo opulent, in reſpect to finances, as could be wiſhed, elſe it would enlarge its ſphere of operation, to carry civilization and religion into other dark and uncultivated regions.

Dr. Haweis is ſtill an eloquent and powerful preacher. His ſtyle is perſpicuous and elegant. He never deſcends to that coarſe method of illuſtration made uſe of by ſome popular preachers, nor does he entertain his auditory with quaint witticiſms and ridiculous anecdotes. He has a clear method of reaſoning, and ſeldom launches into the wildneſs of declamation. As a writer, he poſſeſſes great merit, on account of an elegant ſtyle, which is at once pious and fervid.

THE

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY DUNDAS,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT, &c.

HENRY DUNDAS is a deſcendant from a younger branch of a family * long eminent among the petty barons of Lothian. During a great part of the century which is now about to expire, his immediate anceſtors have been diſtinguiſhed as the ableſt advocates at the Scottiſh bar: and they have there ſucceſſively attained to the higheſt honours and emoluments of the juridical profeſſion. His father, even while a young lawyer, appeared to old Preſident Dalrymple. to excel, in diſcernment, eloquence, and erudition, all thoſe admired advocates, the Fletchers, Gilmores, Nicholſons, and Lockharts, whom he himſelf had heard in his younger years. His elder brother, the late Lord Preſident Dundas, after advancing through a very ſplendid and ſucceſsful career of practice at the bar, was raiſed to the firſt place in the ſupreme Court of Juſtice in his native country. And it is ſtill remembered, with what auguſt dignity, what a clear comprehenſion and quick diſpatch of buſineſs, what depth of legal erudition and cogency of argument, that eminent judge, for

* The Dundaſſes of Dundas.

a long ſeries of years, directed the proceedings of the Court of Seſſion.

Henry, a younger ſon, and by a ſecond marriage, was deſtined to ſeek his fortune in ſome profeſſional purſuit. He, very naturally, choſe that in which his family had been ſo ſucceſsful. Though very young when he was called to the Scottiſh bar, he quickly roſe to ſome diſtinction among the junior claſs of advocates. His advantages of birth and his perſonal qualities introduced him, in a favourable manner, to all the gay and faſhionable ſociety of the Scottiſh metropolis: and he was ſufficiently diſpoſed to enter ardently into the uſual pleaſures of the young. But this propenſity, inſtead of unfitting him for buſineſs or ſtudy, was believed to make his application to both, the one and the other, only ſo much the more lively and vigorous, during the time for which it was beſtowed upon them. The *General Aſſembly* of the Church of Scotland, the only very numerous and popular Court in that part of the iſland; was regarded as an excellent ſchool of deliberative eloquence: and the young advocates, in general, were, therefore, uſually eager to obtain ſeats, and to try their powers of oratory, in it. No one, however, was ever more favourably liſtened to, or more admired, in that aſſembly, than young Dundas; who exhibited, there, ſome of the firſt ſplendid ſpecimens of that ſound and enlightening eloquence, which he was afterwards to exerciſe in a more illuſtrious ſcene of debate.

A marriage

A marriage with the heireſs of the eſtate of Melville, in the vicinity of Edinburgh, brought an uſeful addition to his *younger-brother's-fortune*, and, in the courſe of a few years, made him the father of an amiable family of children.

In the progreſs of his life and practice at the bar, his firſt habits and character were gradually matured. His ſound intelligence, and prompt diſcernment, as a man of buſineſs, obtained to his pleadings the reſpectful attention of the ableſt judges on the bench; and drew a continually increaſing number of clients to ſolicit his aſſiſtance, in litigations, as their counſellor and advocate.

It was not in his nature, to confine himſelf to be a mere plodding lawyer, admirable for nothing but profound juridical erudition. His inclination and ability to adorn the dryneſs of juridical argument with the not unbecoming elegancies of literature, were ſuch as to procure to him, while he was ſtill very young, the flattering eſteem of the late Lord Kaimes,—a man who was extremely ſtudious to apply philoſophy and literature to the improvement of juriſprudence. Nor can there be any thing more honourable, either to the prophetic ſagacity of Kaimes, or to the fair early promiſe of the talents of Dundas, than that very elegant and complimentary addreſs in which Lord Kaimes dedicated to his young friend, his excellent work, of which the title is—" *Principles of Equity*."

Family-intereſt, and thoſe talents which com-

mand ample employment at the bar, naturally recommend a Scottiſh lawyer to the favourable notice of the Crown. Mr. Dundas roſe, under the adminiſtration of the late Lord North, to the office of Lord Advocate for Scotland. He filled this office with ſuch ability, that it ſeemed rather to derive honour from him, than to confer it upon him. It had been uſual for the Lord Advocate for Scotland, to procure, at the ſame time, a ſeat in Parliament, as the repreſentative of ſome Scottiſh county or burghs†. Mr. Dundas followed the example of his predeceſſors, in this inſtance; and thus produced his talents upon a theatre, on which they were quickly to attain the diſtinction juſtly due to them.

It has been obſerved, that even the moſt eminent orators of the Engliſh bar, have rarely, except upon queſtions of law, been able to command much attention, as ſpeakers, in either of the Houſes of Parliament. There is, in truth, in the law of England, and in the practice of the Engliſh Courts of Juſtice, ſo much of cuſtom not eaſily to be traced to its foundations in nature and reaſon, of form, of technical language; all which, the practiſing lawyer muſt have maſtered, before he can become ſkilful or eminent in his profeſſion,—but which are conſiderably remote,—on the one hand, from the philoſophical principles of civil and political

† It is natural for the miniſters of the Crown to expect, that an office of ſuch dignity and emoluments ſhould yield them a vote in Parliament.

law,

law,—on the other, from the ſagacity of a liberal experience in the common affairs of life: that the ſame advantages of ſtudy and experience which make a lawyer able as a pleader, and profound as a counſellor in the laws of England; will frequently unfit him for the exerciſe of a popular, deliberative eloquence, in a great legiſlative aſſembly; and render his mind too narrow for the diſcriminating comprehenſion of political or civil affairs of great extent and complexity. But, in the practice of the law of Scotland, the appeals to general principle, and to the utilities of life, are much more frequent. The Scottiſh lawyer is obliged to be more of the philoſopher and the man of the world, than the Engliſh lawyer,—leſs of the mere formaliſt, and of the mechanic inattentive to the ratio of his art. Conſequently, the practice, the experience, the habits, of the Scottiſh lawyer, have a peculiar tendency to prepare him for diſtinguiſhing himſelf as a political orator and a ſtateſman. The practice of the Scottiſh law will not, indeed, of a blockhead make a great politician; neither will ſkill in the laws of England, render a man of an uncommonly acute and vigorous mind, unequal to the duties of a legiſlator or a miniſter of ſtate. But, it ſeems to be exceedingly probable; that,—of any two men, of equal talents and advantages,—if the one ſhall ſpend the firſt half of his life in the ſtudy and practice of the law of Scotland,—while the other dedicates an equal portion of his years to the Engliſh law;

law; and if they ſhall, at the end of this time, meet as rival orators and ſtateſmen in the Houſe of Commons; the Scottiſh lawyer will quickly be able to take a more important and leading part in the conduct of its buſineſs, than the Engliſh one *.

In the caſe of Mr. DUNDAS, native talents, and a turn of mind naturally adapted for political buſineſs, ſeem to have concurred with the advantages of profeſſional knowledge and profeſſional habits, in order to form the great ſtateſman. His entrance into parliament, was, during the adminiſtration of Lord North,—at a time when the difficulties of the government demanded the exerciſe of extraordinary powers in thoſe who could influence its tranſactions,—and when the embarraſſments of a falling miniſtry, ſeemed to promiſe every thing to the ambition of thoſe who aſpired to ſupplant them.

The true key to the hiſtory of the changes and ſucceſſions of Miniſters in Britain, ſince the æra of the Revolution, is be found in the ſecret hiſtory of the myſteries of the Whig and the Tory parties. Theſe two parties, in their origin, moulded the very ſame principles of *public utility* and *private convenience*, attachment to *principle* and reverence for ancient *eſtabliſhment* and *precedent*, into two

* It is to be obſerved, that we here ſpeak of *actual*, and not merely *nominal* lawyers. A gentleman may reſide in one of the Inns of Court, without narrowing his mind to the ſtudy of the law.

different

different creeds of diſcordant faſhions. Intereſt, prejudice; contradiction, imitation; the inheritance of eſtates, friendſhips, enmities, and modes of thinking; confirmed and perpetuated the exiſtence of a party-diviſion, which, if it were poſſible for party-diviſions to end, ſhould have ended at the Revolution. It was the deeply artful policy of WILLIAM, to hold the balance between the *Whigs* and the *Tories*; to employ the Whigs as his inſtruments for the ſupport of the revolution-ſettlement,—the Tories, for the protection of the prerogative of the Crown; to parry with the one party the attacks of the other; and thus to preſerve himſelf maſter of both. ANNE, ſeduced by partiality for her favourites, firſt reſigned herſelf, implicitly, to the direction of the Whigs; and then, after rendering this party too ſtrong; endeavoured to call in the Tories to her protection againſt the deſpotic arrogance of her Whig Miniſters, with an effort and a ſtruggle which made her life conſiderably unhappy, during the latter years of her reign. The power which the Whigs had acquired during the reign of Anne, aided by the odium which they had found means to throw upon their adverſaries, enabled them to give the law to her ſucceſſor: and GEORGE, imprudently grateful, or truſting too implicitly to the information and advices of men who had been bought by the Whigs, threw himſelf entirely into their hands. The plots and inſurrections of the Jacobites, as they were unſucceſsful,

ſerved

ſerved to throw new odium upon the Tories, and to ſtrengthen the power of the Whiggiſh party. For a while, the balance between the two rival parties was wholly loſt: And the Whigs enjoyed a degree of popularity with the nation, and of favour with two ſucceſſive Sovereigns; which made the government wholly theirs, and tempted them to abuſes of their authority and influence; that were, at leaſt, not leſs flagrant and illegal than thoſe which they had ever branded as the neceſſary reſults from Tory principles alone. Their diviſions among themſelves, gave, at length, à degree of force to an Oppoſition originally Tory, by which the principal body of the Whiggiſh party was driven, with Sir Robert Walpole, from the helm of government. But, though the Tories had contended in the front of the battle, they could not yet obtain an equal ſhare in the ſpoils of the victory. They were excluded from any ſubſtantial participation in power and emoluments. They renewed their oppoſition: the rebellion of the year 1745 took place: and the miniſtry remained feeble and unſettled; till the Whigs, with the addition of a few recreant Tories, again fixed themſelves in a poſſeſſion of power; in which they were, to the beginning of the preſent reign, maintained,—chiefly by means of the vaſt *Election-influence* of the *Pelhams*. While unable to obtain the chief direction of their Sovereign's counſels; the Tories had naturally endeavoured to recommend themſelves to the favour of

his

his apparent heir; had aſſiduouſly haunted the Court of Prince Frederick, father to our preſent King; and had contrived to engroſs the chief direction of the education of the young Prince of Wales, after his father's death. It was, in conſequence of theſe things, the policy of the preſent reign; from its very commencement, to conciliate the loyalty of the Tories; not by abandoning to them, alone, the reins of the government,—a meaſure no longer poſſible; but by advancing them into an equality of power with the Whigs. It was even, as it ſhould ſeem, projected to form a new Tory party, who ſhould attach themſelves to the family of Hanover, juſt as devotedly as the ancient Tories had been attached to the Stuarts. A deſign was conceived of giving new dignity to the Crown, by the imitation of the policy of William; by which it might be enabled—to withdraw itſelf from being merely the ward of one of the two great parties, and to become maſter of the balance between them. No ſooner were the fierceſt Whig leaders aware of this new plan of conduct for the Crown, than they reſented it, as treaſon againſt that paramount authority which they had hoped always to engroſs. They ſtruggled with their utmoſt vigour to diſappoint it. Their efforts; that management by which theſe were oppoſed; and even the conceſſions that were made to ſoothe them; produced thoſe frequent changes in the miniſtry, which took place during the firſt part of the

preſent

preſent reign. Under the adminiſtration of Lord North, the ſyſtem of the combination of Whigs with Tories, upon new principles—in their ſpirit chiefly Tory, ſeemed to be carried fully into effect, with a ſtability that might prove permanent. Succeſs in the ſubjection of the American colonies to Britiſh taxation, would have confirmed it beyond the poſſibility of ſubverſion by any immediate efforts of the Whigs. The misfortunes of the American war, and the weakneſs of Lord North's adminiſtration, were encouraging the Whigs with new hopes, at the time when Mr. DUNDAS began to diſtinguiſh himſelf, as a member of the Britiſh parliament.

Being the firſt law-officer of the Crown for Scotland, it was natural that he ſhould, in the Houſe of Commons, act as the advocate of the meaſures of the adminiſtration. When the fall of that miniſtry appeared to be inevitable; he ſtrove to make himſelf ſo eminently maſter of ſome of the grand branches of the national buſineſs: that, in whatever changes ſhould enſue; his aid might be too important to any new adminiſtration, to be haſtily ſlighted; his oppoſition too formidable, to be careleſsly provoked. After the Britiſh affairs in America ſeemed deſperate; the eyes of all were turned upon India, as the moſt valuable of thoſe diſtant poſſeſſions, which yet remained to the nation. Among other parliamentary enquiries, a *Secret Committee* of the Houſe of Commons was, upon a

motion

motion from the miniſter himſelf, nominated to " enquire into the cauſes of the war in the Carna- " tic, and of the unfavourable condition of the " Britiſh poſſeſſions in thoſe parts." Mr. DUNDAS was appointed Chairman of this Committee. In the report that he made from the Committee, and in the formation of a bill which he, ſoon after, introduced into parliament for the regulation of the Britiſh affairs in India, the force of his abilities for buſineſs, was very conſpicuouſly diſplayed. This bill was defeated by the efforts of the Oppoſition. But, Mr. Dundas, in the courſe of the enquiry by which it was ſuggeſted, had acquired and exhibited a knowledge of Indian affairs, that was afterwards to contribute, in an eminent manner, to his advancement.

The misfortunes of the campaign of the year 1781, at laſt reduced Lord North to the neceſſity of retiring from the adminiſtration. A new miniſtry was formed—of Whigs who prepared to act upon the ancient principles of the Whig ariſtocracy. But, they could not ſo adjuſt, either their plans of government, or the rival pretenſions of private intereſts, as to ſecure the permanency of their miniſterial power. The preſent Marquis of Lanſdowne, then Earl of Shelburne, at the head of another new adminiſtration—of mingled Whigs and Tories, was the negociator of a general peace, which gave tranquillity to America, India, and Europe. But, to recover ſome part of their former power

and

and emoluments, thoſe adherents to Lord North, who had been lately the ſupporters of the new Tory ſyſtem, agreed to coaleſce with the Whig opponents of the miniſtry of Shelburne, and to eſpouſe the boldeſt ariſtocratical principles of ancient Whiggiſm. Lord Shelburne was, conſequently, driven from the helm of government. Fox and North became the miniſters. And the ſovereign ſaw himſelf reduced into that helpleſs conſtrained ſituation, in which George the Second had obeyed and then outwitted Pulteney, and in which he had afterwards ſuffered the Pelhams arrogantly to dictate to him. The Whigs were now, however, much more broken into ſubordinate parties, than they had anciently been; the grand principles of the party were much feebler, and leſs extenſive, in their influence; the voice of public opinion, independent of Parliament, was now far more powerful; the Crown poſſeſſed a ſmall band of devoted adherents, the *new Tories* of the preſent reign, which formed for it, ſuch an engine of defence againſt the incroachments of the Whiggiſh ariſtocracy, as it had formerly wanted. While the Whigs endeavoured to fortify themſelves in the ſtrong-holds of power, by means which ſhould make it alike impoſſible for the Sovereign to thruſt them out, and for an Oppoſition to force the gates upon them: The Monarch was emboldened to reſiſt their attempts, to put himſelf at the head of their adverſaries, and to diſmiſs them from the adminiſtration,

miniſtration, before they ſhould reduce him into the *virtual* condition of a mere priſoner of ſtate. By an uſe, which we ſhould have ſuppoſed unconſtitutional, of the ſovereign's perſonal influence to affect the deciſions ofthe members of the legiſlature; that grand meaſure was defeated, through which the Coalition upon the principles of the old Whig ariſtocracy, had hoped to eſtabliſh themſelves, immoveably, in the poſſeſſion of the government. Various artifices, conceived and employed with conſummate ability and addreſs, enabled a young miniſter, with a parliamentary minority, to baffle an Oppoſition compoſing a majority in the Houſe of Commons. A diſſolution of that parliament enſued. The new election *returned* to the Houſes of the Legiſlature a deciſive majority of members who were willing to ſupport an adminiſtration of the government, formed upon that ſyſtem of policy in the Crown, which had its origin with the commencement of the preſent reign. Mr. Pitt was deſtined to conſummate the great plan of the late Earl of Bute. A miniſtry was formed, ſomewhat more Whiggiſh in the compoſition of its parts, than that of Lord North, but in its vital ſpirit, at leaſt not leſs Tory. It combined, indeed, the Toryiſm of Bolingbroke with the Whiggiſm of Walpole. Thoſe who were thus reduced to a minority, and driven into oppoſition; ſeem to have, in their adverſity, relinquiſhed the high ariſtocratical Whig principles; and to have reſum-

ed the wildeſt ſpirit of the original Whigs of the latter part of the reign of Charles the Second.

In all theſe conteſts and changes of miniſtry, from the time of the near approach of the fall of Lord North, to the eſtabliſhment of a ſteady and efficient adminiſtration under Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dundas acted a buſy and important part. Conſcious of talents for political buſineſs, which would enable him to ſerve his country uſefully in the higheſt offices of government; he was naturally unwilling to relinquiſh his ſtation, and to throw himſelf into an unrelenting oppoſition to thoſe by whom Lord North had been ſupplanted. But his *political principles were adverſe to the high pretenſions of the Whig ariſtocracy, and friendly to that which had been the policy of the Crown, ever ſince the beginning of the preſent reign.* He wiſely *regarded that policy, as the only one upon which, in the circumſtances of the preſent time, a firm, efficient, and truly uſeful miniſtry could be eſtabliſhed.* This judgment was, as it ſhould ſeem, the grand principle of his political conduct; and of this principle he never loſt ſight. He might vary his means; but he ſtill held the ſame end ſteadily in view. During the whole train of theſe party-contentions, he was courted and eſteemed as a friend; he was dreaded and reſpected as an opponent. Without a perſonal fortune that might make his purſe uſeful to the party to which he ſhould adhere; without any extenſive election-influence; without powerful family-connexions;

nexions; he forced the contending parties to regard him as a man who,—if in Adminiſtration, muſt occupy no mean place,—if in Oppoſition, muſt poſſeſs the authority of a leader. Higher teſtimony than this, could not be given, in favour of his genius, his ſagacity, his ſkill and diligence in buſineſs. To the young and inexperienced members of Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration, the aſſiſtance of ſuch a man as Mr. Dundas, muſt have been abſolutely invaluable. By his aſſiſtance chiefly, was Mr. Pitt enabled to win over to his intereſts, all the leading members of the Eaſt-India Company, at the moſt critical period of the parliamentary ſtruggle; and afterwards to produce, with their conſent, a ſyſtem of *India Controul*, which was, in its eſſential tendency, very little different from the abhorred plan of Mr. Fox. The appointments of *Treaſurer of the Navy*, and *Preſident of the Board of Controul of the Eaſt-India Company in the management of their Affairs*, with *a Seat in the Cabinet-Council*, were the firſt rewards of Mr. Dundas's ſeaſonable ſervices in the arrangements of the new adminiſtration. Aware, that he owed all this, ſolely to his own talents and exertions, the public naturally eſtimated the degree of his uſefulneſs as a miniſter and a parliamentary orator, by the importance of the ſituations to which he was thus raiſed. Some opprobrious remarks might be thrown out by detraction, againſt his political integrity. In regard to his ability for the duties of his offices,

there was but one opinion, and that highly favourable to him.

Many men have been thought worthy of official greatneſs, till they attained it, who, when at the height of their ambition, belied their own previous boaſtings, and entirely diſappointed the expectations of the world. It was not ſo with Mr. Dundas. His arrangements in the diſtribution of the public money appropriated for the uſes of the navy; were quickly ſeen to contribute to new order and œconomy on the part of the ſtate, and to an accommodating promptitude in the payment—of the wages of the ſeamen in particular, by which the royal ſervice was rendered much leſs diſagreeable to our Britiſh mariners, than it had formerly been. Over India affairs, he is underſtood to have acquired a ſupreme influence; not ſo much from the official ſituation of Preſident of the Board of Controul, as from his thorough knowledge—of the ſtate of the Eaſt-India Company's capital, territorial, pecuniary, and commercial,—of the relation between the proprietors of the Company—and the eſtabliſhments of ſervants, by which they adminiſter their affairs,—of the beſt means for accommodating Britiſh manners and government to the arts, manners, prejudices, cuſtoms, and long-eſtabliſhed inſtitutions of the Mahommedans and Hindoos of the Eaſt,—of the arrangements requiſite to maintain the government of India in a due dependency upon the imperial government of Britain, and to

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make the Indian dominions of this great Company, an actual addition of political ſtrength, not a burthen, to the powers of the Britiſh empire.—When the late Mr. Burke, and the other leaders of the Oppoſition; perhaps attributing the diſappointment of their hopes of official power, to the election-influence of the Eaſt-India company and ſome of its principal ſervants; endeavoured to combine public juſtice with party-revenge, and to cruſh their moſt obnoxious enemies by a parliamentary proſecution of Mr. Haſtings; Mr. Dundas neither oppoſed this proſecution, ſo far as it ſeemed to have in view only the ends of public juſtice,—nor favoured it, where it appeared to originate in baſer motives.—The affairs of the Eaſt-India Company had been reduced, by the neceſſary expences of war, if not by the rapacity, profuſion, and general mal-adminiſtration of its ſervants, into a diſorder that threatened bankruptcy. But for the attentions of the Preſident of the Board of Controul, and the œconomical regulations which he enforced; perhaps even the proſperity of returning peace, might have been inſufficient to raiſe thoſe affairs into that flouriſhing ſtate, which they were ſoon ſeen to attain.—The accounts of the revenues, the expenditure, and the commercial tranſactions of the India Company, which his official ſituation has led him to preſent, every year, to Parliament; are confeſſed to be; not only deciſive proofs of the happy efficiency of the new ſyſtem for the management of India affairs; but maſterpieces of clearneſs, of

order, of accuracy, and eſpecially of ſkill to reduce the complex and intricate to a beautiful and inſtructive ſimplicity.—In Parliament, Mr. Dundas has ſhewn himſelf, able to vindicate the conduct of the Executive Government, in thoſe branches of its adminiſtration, in which he has been himſelf particularly employed; ready to ſupply all information that was demanded concerning his department in the buſineſs of the navy, or concerning India affairs, if miniſterial prudence did not forbid the diſcloſure; watchful, not to ſuffer himſelf to be anticipated by complaints, petitions, or ſuggeſtions from others, in the introduction of thoſe new bills for regulations relative to India, or to the Navy, which it became him to be the firſt to propoſe to the legiſlature. In other parliamentary affairs, he has ever approved himſelf the powerful defender of the general ſyſtem of the meaſures of Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration. His ſpeeches, always rich in vigorous common ſenſe, in extraordinary political ſagacity, in original knowledge of life and of affairs, and marked by a bold avowal of the principles of moderate Toryiſm and of miniſterial expediency, have afforded a powerful and indiſpenſible aid, even to the ſplendid and vehemently argumentative eloquence of Mr. Pitt. Having never profeſſed a political creed eſſentially different from that upon which he, at preſent, acts; he never finds himſelf, like ſome of his aſſociates, in thoſe ſituations of ridiculous diſtreſs; in which a man muſt unavoidably ſtand, when he is obliged

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to oppoſe principles, of which he was once the violent partizan. In the Cabinet,—which, no doubt, has, like Parliament, its parties,—Mr. Dundas is underſtood to have always ſteadily co-operated with Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville, in the recommendation of meaſures of government, of which Mr. Pitt and himſelf are the firſt authors.

Spite of all the efforts of a powerful Oppoſition, conducted by men of the moſt illuſtrious talents; every ſucceſſive year, for a while, continued to confirm the ſtability of the adminiſtration of Mr. Dundas and Mr. Pitt. All the energies of trade, and of peaceful induſtry, were renovated, after the war. The loſs of America occaſioned much of that part of the Britiſh commercial capital, which was, before, wont to be inconſiderately tranſferred for the colonization of the American provinces,—to be, now, laid out with much greater advantage,—upon manufacturing eſtabliſhments and agricultural improvements at home. There was a natural increaſe of the population of the empire: there was an added accumulation of its ſtock. The augmented national debt; as it did, in reality, nothing more than vary the diſtribution of a part of the annual income from the lands, induſtry, and commerce of the nation; failed of occaſioning that entire ruin and bankruptcy, which many *wiſeacre* politicians had expected from it. Even thoſe additional taxes, which were demanded for the enlarged expenditure of the government; being regularly returned, through the channels of circula-

tion, to that induſtry from which they had been drawn; were not found to be inſupportably burthenſome. The people; not underſtanding, that all this depended, not ſo much upon the influence and wiſdom of government, as upon the natural and neceſſary relations of things; found themſelves flouriſhing and happy; and were willing to attribute almoſt all their proſperity to the talents and the virtue of the miniſters. They ſaw the arrangements of *taxation*; the *influence* of Britain in the ſyſtem of the European powers; the diſtribution of *juſtice*; and thoſe alterations in the *laws*, which were required by altering manners and circumſtances; all regulated and maintained, with a ſkill and vigilance, on the part of the Government, which had been rarely excelled in any former period of the Britiſh hiſtory: And, with a very natural error of imagination, they eagerly attributed to the ability and beneficence which managed theſe things ſo well, almoſt every other felicity in their lot. It was peculiarly advantageous, alſo, to Mr. Dundas and Mr. Pitt, as miniſters; that, in the latter time of the American war, the minds of the people had been depreſſed into extreme deſpondency, in reſpect to national affairs. Many fancied, that the hour of Britain's doom had actually arrived, and that by the expenditure and the diſaſters of that war, the nation was irretrievably ruined. Now, the contraſt between what had been feared, and what had come to paſs, was ſo ſtrong and ſtriking, that the ſhort-ſighted in politics were

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neceſſarily led to regard the miniſters of the æra of ſuch unexpected proſperity, as the ſaviours of the land. When the temporary, but ſevere, indiſpoſition of the Sovereign, ſeemed to create a neceſſity for the eſtabliſhment of a Regency; and Mr. Pitt, with Mr. Dundas, and their miniſterial aſſociates, were, conſequently, threatened with the loſs of miniſterial power: it then, appeared, how remarkably their adminiſtration had recommended them to the favour of the nation: For, there was a general dread of the exaltation of Mr. Fox and his party, and a general concern among the people for the ſupport of the preſent miniſters; as if the change would have produced to the nation, all the moſt grievous calamities that could be feared or fancied. Mr. Dundas ſteadily adhered to Mr. Pitt, in that ſeaſon of difficulty and alarm: And his co-operation, as it was bold, firm, and vigorous, ſo was it alſo eminently uſeful.

A parliamentary Oppoſition, are, in Britain, by a natural neceſſity, the inſpectors and accuſers of the miniſtry, and the tribunes of the people. To the Whig-Ariſtocracy in the Oppoſition to the adminiſtration of Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas, therefore,—it was painful, above all their other mortifications and diſappointments,—to perceive; that the miniſters, their adverſaries, were ſtill, with the great body of the nation, more popular than they. At the time of the conteſt, in conſequence of which the preſent miniſters were eſtabliſhed in official power; Mr. Pitt and his friends had ſtriven to detach the peo-

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ple from their adverſaries, by the profeſſion of an almoſt Democratical Whiggiſm, intended to expoſe to abhorrence, the principles of the Whig-Ariſtocracy. But, Democratical Whiggiſm, being utterly incompatible with the efficient adminiſtration of the Engliſh government, had never been other than the political creed of the party out of power. Mr. Pitt and his friends could not remain conſtant to it, after their elevation,—any more than did the Whigs who had raged for liberty in the reign of Queen Anne, remain conſtant to their principles, after the acceſſion of George the Firſt. Availing themſelves of this, the Oppoſition became, gradually, more Democratical in their profeſſions of Whiggiſm; till, about the æra when the events of the French Revolution, firſt broke forth; they, at laſt, completely regained the favour of a great proportion of the people. The progreſs of that Revolution tended, powerfully, to excite the energies of Public Opinion, to that pitch of exertion, at which it might enable the people to exerciſe a new controuling influence over the Government and the legiſlature. The boldeſt members of the Oppoſition, probably hoped; that the power of Public Opinion might now be employed, with happy efficacy, to degrade a miniſtry whom it had, at the firſt, exalted; that the people might be made the inſtruments of the exaltation of the Whig-Ariſtocracy; and might be, then, diſmiſſed from political buſtle, till their intervention ſhould again be wanted.

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The miniſtry, on the other hand, failed not to remark the new energy, with which popular opinion was erecting itſelf to controul the powers of the parliament and the ſovereign. They ſaw, that the ſtability of their own power was in danger. But, ſuch was the infection of falſe principles, and ſuch the progreſs of events; that they might ſoon ſee, alſo; that the ſame ſtorm which menaced their overthrow, was alſo big with miſchief to the ancient political Conſtitution of the Empire. Their own cauſe was likely to be the better ſupported, ſince it was thus eſſentially connected with the intereſt of their country. With a management, conſummately ſkilful, of which the praiſe is, in no mean degree, to be aſcribed to Mr. Dundas; they contrived to divide the party of their adverſaries, to detach and entice into their own ranks, all the true Ariſtocratical Whigs; once more to combine in their favour, the more opulent and prudent throughout the nation; and to leave, in oppoſition to them, none but thoſe who were, in their principles, boldly and deciſively Democratical.

The continuance of the adminiſtration of Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dundas, and their co-adjutors, was thus, in the opinion of a very conſiderable part of the nation, rendered neceſſary to the ſalvation of the empire. Yet, the part which they had now to act, was ſtill full of difficulties and perils. It ſeemed requiſite, that they ſhould engage Britain in a war to curb the republican ambition of France: but, the expediency, and even the juſtice of ſuch a war, were far from being deciſively clear. If the public

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law of Europe, the feelings of humanity, and the principle of precaution for ſelf-preſervation might afford a ſufficient vindication of the juſtice of declaring war againſt France; yet, was it not to be dreaded leſt ſuch a war ſhould ſerve, only to rouſe, and to diſcipline the myriads of the French republicans, to univerſal conqueſt? Was not the meaſure of declaring war againſt the French nation, one that ſeemed directly to favour the views of the Briſſotines, the authors of all the greatneſs of republican France? There was danger, leſt Democratical Whiggiſm when no longer under the guidance and reſtraint of the Whig Ariſtocracy, might become much more turbulent at home than it had ever before been. It might be impoſſible to form ſuch a combination of the continental Powers, as would be indiſpenſibly requiſite to co-operate effectually, with the naval power of Britain, in order to humble France. The expenditure of a war might produce financial embarraſſments ſufficient to overthrow the Conſtitution and Government. The change from a ſtate of peace to a ſtate of war, had, in former times, but too often produced changes of adminiſtration. Aſſociating the Ariſtocratical Whigs with themſelves in the government; the former miniſtry might be obliged to reſign a portion of their power and emoluments; the loſs of which would render their official ſituation leſs agreeable than before.

All theſe inconveniencies, the Britiſh miniſters have, in the progreſs of theſe laſt ten years, had to encounter. How they have contended with, and

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in part ſurmounted, them, is known to the world. To Mr. Dundas it is highly honourable, that, his perſonal hiſtory is, thus, interwoven with the hiſtory of his country, in a manner which makes it impoſſible to give the one, without ſketching the other. The importance of his ſervices to the adminiſtration of which he was a member, had occaſioned him to be intruſted, in addition to his other of offices, with the ſeals as Secretary of State. When the new arrangement with the Whigs, introduced the Duke of Portland into the miniſtry; it was found to be more eligible to create a third Secretary, than to remove Mr. Dundas from conducting the correſpondence relative to the meaſures and operations of the war. Although he has, ever ſince, held the office of Secretary of State, together with thoſe of Treaſurer to the Navy, and Preſident of the Board for the Controul of Indian Affairs; yet no confuſion or delay in the diſpatch of the buſineſs of his different offices, has ever been complained of. Thoſe meaſures, in the concerting of which, he has, in the courſe of the war, had a ſhare; have been diſtinguiſhed by remarkable energy and ſagacity, and by a very ſkilful adaptation of the means employed, to the ends which it was propoſed to accompliſh. It may be true, that the practice of the French, and the ſuggeſtions of the Oppoſition, have firſt hinted ſome of the wiſeſt and moſt vigorous meaſures, which Mr. Dundas and his fellow-miniſters have, in the courſe of the war, adopted. But, it muſt, at the ſame time, be owned; that much

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has, alſo, originated with theſe miniſters themſelves; and beſides, that, only men of talents are capable, even of adopting, with advantage, the projects of others; for a blockhead will ever make the beſt ſchemes ridiculous, in attempting to make them his own.

The plans for the formation of the fencible regiments, the ſupplementary militia, the volunteer companies, the proviſional cavalry, and all that military force which has been levied and maintained, in the courſe of the preſent war, for the internal defence of this country againſt invaſion or inſurrection; have either originated with Mr. Dundas, or have fallen, in a particular manner, under his conſideration and management, in his character of Secretary of State for the War Department. Nor is it to be denied, that means better adapted for the accompliſhment of the objects which were held in view, could not have been eaſily conceived. The diſtribution of the troops in garriſons and barracks, throughout the kingdom, is, alſo, a matter in which he has, no doubt, been principally concerned. It muſt be owned, that, whether for the ſuppreſſion of the ſpirit of inſurrection and ſedition, or for defence againſt hoſtile attacks from abroad, this diſtribution could not well have been more ſkilful.

He has long been conſidered as holding, virtually, the power of miniſter for Scotland. Never was there among the Scots leſs of diſcontent againſt the government, than during this period. The meaſure of the reſtoration of the *Forfeited*

Eſtates

Eſtates, was a noble one, of which Mr. Dundas has been regarded as the author, and which tended, in an eminent manner, to heal thoſe wounds which civil diſcord and rebellion had anciently inflicted. Never were thoſe different caſes, in which the changing ſtate of Scotland demanded the interpoſition of the legiſlature for its improvement, more vigilantly watched by a miniſtry, or more carefully provided for. If it have been alledged; that, in ſome examples, in the diſtribution of juſtice in the criminal courts of Scotland; there has been ſhewn a diſpoſition to throw the law and the perſon accuſed, as much as poſſible, at the mercy of the Crown: It is, however, univerſally confeſſed; that, never was the Crown's prerogative of pardoning criminals, exerciſed with greater clemency and forbearance, than in the inſtance of perſons accuſed or condemned, during this time, for political crimes, among the Scots. In the diſtribution of places and emoluments in the patronage of the Crown in Scotland, during this period, the ſcale of political influence and family-reſpectability, has been conſulted, with a degree of care and exactitude, which has, very eſſentially contributed to promote the ſtrength of the preſent adminiſtration, and to inveſt Mr. Dundas himſelf with an influence that he did not originally enjoy. Nothing but ſingular prudence in the leading miniſter for Scottiſh affairs; could have ſo reconciled all the principal nobility, and almoſt all the great land-holders, to the ſame miniſtry;

miniſtry; notwithſtanding the multiplicity and the neceſſary rivalities of their different pretenſions to the favours of the crown.

Mr. Dundas is underſtood—to be capable of a very laborious application to buſineſs; and to poſſeſs, in an uncommon degree, thoſe powers of intuitive diſcernment, of diſpatch, and of arrangement, by which the toil of buſineſs is ever exceedingly abridged and facilitated. He is accuſtomed to riſe at a very early hour in the morning; and is, conſequently, able to accompliſh much, which his intercourſe with his friends, and his neceſſary appearances in public, would, otherwiſe, unavoidably hinder him from performing. His manners and general conduct in private life, are ſaid to be very winning and agreeable. His perſonal friends are numerous, and warmly attached to him. He is ſaid to enjoy, with a high reliſh, the pleaſures of domeſtic and convivial life. He has been twice married:—His preſent lady is a ſiſter of the Earl of Hopetoun.—Notwithſtanding the neceſſity for the diſpoſal of every favour of the Crown, that paſſes through his hands, with a view to the ſtrengthening of his political intereſt with the people and with the freeholders; he has been known, in ſome inſtances, to advance his own private friends, upon the moſt generous and diſintereſted motives, but with a ſagacious diſcernment of virtue and talents in them, which has done him the higheſt honour.—His official labours have, long, left him little leiſure for the cultivation of literature. But, of genuine

literature,

literature, he has, on various occaſions, evinced himſelf, if not the oſtentatious, at leaſt the ſincere, patron. Till the time when he took part with Mr. Pitt, againſt the coalition of Mr. Fox and Lord North, he enjoyed the eſteem of the late Dr. Robertſon, the hiſtorian, and regarded him with a correſponding reſpect. He has lived in habits of friendly intimacy and correſpondence with Dr. Hugh Blair; a man whoſe writings have contributed, perhaps, more than thoſe of any one of his contemporaries, to refine the taſte and to improve the virtue of the age. Mr. Bruce, who had the merit of being the firſt to baniſh the barbarous logic of the ſchools from a Scottiſh Univerſity,—and to propoſe, that, in ethics, the ſame rigorous analyſis and induction ſhould be employed, which Bacon had taught, and Newton ſo ſucceſsfully exemplified, in phyſics; and who has diſtinguiſhed himſelf as the author of ſeveral valuable works; has, by the favour of Mr. Dundas, been honoured with ſeveral important appointments. Upon the death of Dr. Robertſon, the place of Hiſtoriographer to the King for Scotland, was—not, as is believed, without the particular intervention of Mr. Dundas,—conferred upon Dr. Gillies, who had, undeniably, exhibited a more ſplendid monument of hiſtorical excellence than any other of his ſurviving fellow-countrymen. Solely with a view to enlarge the means of rewarding profeſſional worth and literary excellence, among that reſpectable body of men, the clergy of the

church of Scotland; Mr. Dundas is underſtood to have recommended to his Majeſty, to increaſe the number of his Chaplains for Scotland, from ſix to ten; an augmention, which, ſeveral years ſince, took place. In thoſe promotions, too, in the profeſſion of the law, which have been made by Mr. Dundas's influence and advice, talents and the reputation of integrity and honour have, *cæteris paribus*, ever been preferred. And, indeed, in all the appointments to office, which have fallen within Mr. Dundas's province of the adminiſtration, he has conſtantly ſhewn himſelf ſuperior to that vice of narrow minds, which dreads to favour the advancement of a man of abilities, leſt he ſhould become a refractory ſervant, or, perhaps, a rival. It has been alleged by ſome, not careleſs readers of hiſtory and obſervers of life; that, in eloquence, in the diſpatch of buſineſs, in a convivial caſt of character, and in the mixed reputation of ability and political virtue; there exiſts a very ſtriking reſemblance between the character of Mr. Dundas and that of Sir Robert Walpole; but a reſemblance which leaves to the former, an unqueſtionable advantage in the compariſon.

But, there are many worthy and not unenlightened members of the community, who judge of all theſe things, in a manner almoſt directly contrary to that in which they have been here repreſented. Theſe men regard every thing in the adminiſtration of the government, as deſpicably weak and execrably wicked; which attains not to the

higheſt conceivable perfection of patriotic virtue; and eſpecially, which differs from their own notions of the beſt plans of political arrangement. They regard Mr. Dundas, and the miniſterial friends with whom he co-operates, with extreme abhorrence; becauſe they conſider this as having involved the Country in an unneceſſary and endleſs war, with republican France; becauſe they oppoſe a political reform, eſteemed by the oppoſition ſo neceſſary to the ſalvation of the ſtate; becauſe they retain poſſeſſion of miniſterial power, at a time when their retiring might ſecure to the nation the bleſſings of peace; becauſe, perhaps, they are not Charles James Fox, the Duke of Bedford, the Marquis of Lanſdowne, or Mr. Charles Grey; becauſe they comply, in their miniſtry, with the imperfect virtue of thoſe with whom the power of the legiſlature and the radical authority of the executive government reſide; becauſe, if the war muſt be perſevered in, they have not, ere this, effected its profeſſed objects!

With patriots ſo ardent, with politicians ſo enlightened, with men ſo richly endowed with the ſhrewdneſs of common ſenſe, the writer of this article will not preſume to contend. But it will, one day, perhaps, be received as a political axiom; that, to improve the ſtructure of ſociety is utterly impoſſible, unleſs you ſhall have firſt improved the elements of which that ſociety is compoſed; that *political reform is utterly impoſſible by any other means, ſave that of making men, as individuals, ſcientific-*

ally and morally wiſer, more virtuous, and more induſtrious; that the government and legiſlation will ever be of the ſame character with the private intelligence, induſtry, and manners of a people,—cannot outrun theſe in improvement,—cannot, *alone*, very materially influence them,—*muſt* be improved, as *they* receive improvement. And when theſe truths ſhall come to be generally allowed; it will then, too, perhaps, be acknowledged; that there is as much political wiſdom in the character and meaſures of the preſent adminiſtration, as could be eaſily obtained under all the exiſting circumſtances by any other arrangement of the Britiſh government; and that Mr. Dundas, though not inſuperably great in talents, nor ſpotleſsly perfect in virtue, may well be eſteemed to be in all reſpects eminent, in compariſon with other contemporary politicians,—to be great in theſe days of little men, to uſe the words of Johnſon, "a giant among the pigmies,—the one-eyed monarch of the blind!"

R. S.

Edinburgh, March 15, 1799.

ARTHUR WOLFE,

BARON KILWARDEN,

Lord Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench in Ireland, and lately the Iriſh Attorney-general.

OF the facility with which even moderate talents may riſe to the higheſt rank and the firſt offices in the ſtate, when the poſſeſſor has the good fortune to think uniformly with the executive power, Lord Kilwarden is a ſtriking inſtance.

Born

Born in an obſcure condition, he had nevertheleſs the advantage of a college education, in the univerſity of Dublin, and was called to the Iriſh bar in 1766. He was ſoon appointed a king's counſel, and by very laborious induſtry in his profeſſion, was making way to wealth and legal character, when, in conſequence of a high opinion of his talents, he was introduced into parliament by Lord Tyrone. Though Mr. Wolfe, from his outſet in life, was a ſtaunch friend to the adminiſtration of the day, whoever might compoſe it, it was yet ſo late as the year 1787 before he mounted the firſt ſtep of the ladder to the bench, by being appointed his Majeſty's Solicitor-general. This, we ſuppoſe, was owing to the ſuperior talents and more important ſervices of other candidates, for in zeal he was inferior to none.

His next advancement followed cloſe on the heels of the former, being nominated Attorney-general in 1789, on the promotion of Mr. Fitzgibbon to the court of Chancery. It was in this ſituation that his parliamentary talents, if he poſſeſſed any, would have had fair and ample room for diſplay. Unfortunately for him, however, he ſucceeded a man whoſe powers of mind, ſenatorial courage, and ſkill in doing the "king's buſineſs," were ſo far ſuperior to his own, that he ſuffered ſeverely by compariſon. Indeed his ſtock of merit was thought to be but ſmall, and it was generally believed that when Mr. Ponſonby, on a certain occaſion, allowed him to be "a very worthy gentle-

man, but a *miſerable* attorney-general," there was more truth in the animadverſion than political invective uſually poſſeſſes.

There was, however, a degree of candour and openneſs in Mr. W.'s manner, which entitled him to eſteem and praiſe; though theſe very qualities, perhaps, diſqualified him from appearing to great advantage in his official character. This, although it was not invariably apparent, ſecured for him many friends, even in the oppoſition; and thoſe who often pitied the *law-officer* of the crown, and laughed at his arguments, yet reſpected the *man* who uſed them.

In caſes of property, Mr. W.'s was conſidered as a ſound opinion; but on conſtitutional queſtions he has been called the *doubting lawyer*, from the circumſtance of his having been unable to urge any other anſwer to charges once brought againſt the late Lord Clonmel, for holding men to exceſſive bail under *fiats* for libel, except that of *doubting* whether or not his lordſhip's conduct had been illegal!

Mr. W. is reported to have been the adviſer of moſt, if not all the ſevere laws which have been, for ſome years paſt, enacted in Ireland; and which have ſuſpended, with what juſtice or neceſſity we do not preſume to judge, ſome of the moſt important and conſtitutional rights of the ſubject. If it be true that thoſe laws, and the ſyſtem of which they were a part, have been the cauſe, inſtead of the effect, of the late diſturbances in that country, he muſt bear a large ſhare of the blame; as he

will deſerve much of the praiſe, if the penal ſtatutes alluded to, were wiſe and neceſſary.

Mr. W. was raiſed to the peerage and the bench on the death of Lord Chief Juſtice Clonmel. As a ſpeaker, his voice is ſtrong and deep; but it is neither mellow nor capable of much variety. His action is the mere *ſwing-ſwang* of the bar; and even on the moſt momentous and animating ſubjects, he ſeemed rather to plead for a fee, than to attain the dignity of an orator. The matter of his ſpeeches is dull, orderly, and phlegmatic, unenlivened with the leaſt ray of fancy or of genius. His language partakes of this character:—ſimple, but not always correct; and plain, without being neat.

In private life, his lordſhip has the high character of being a ſteady friend, and an honeſt man. As a companion he is leſs valuable, his manners being rather of a ſombre and auſtere complexion, while the dull monotony of his ideas is incapable of yielding ſpontaneouſly, or affording, by colliſion, a ſingle ſpark of fancy.

MR. CURRAN.

OF all the opinions which have obtained a general currency, without being either founded in truth or ſanctioned by experience, there are none, perhaps, which have been ſo widely circulated as thoſe by which we are taught to believe, that the

ſtudy of law is adverſe to the operations of genius, and that a lively imagination cannot be fettered to profeſſional purſuits; that to be learned, a man muſt be dull, and that wit cannot be poſſeſſed but to the excluſion of induſtry.

Among the many examples which might be adduced from antiquity, or exhibited in modern times, to prove the futility of this dangerous conceit, that of Mr. Curran is not the leaſt ſtriking. No man has acquired higher reputation for thoſe powers which delight and captivate the fancy, touch the ſprings of paſſion, elicit tears from the ſoftneſs of ſenſibility, or extort from gravity itſelf the roar of laughter; yet has the aſſiduous induſtry and laborious exertions of this gentleman raiſed him from the humbleſt walk of life, in which his birth had placed him, to the firſt rank, if not the firſt place, at the Iriſh bar. He has not, indeed, attained high official ſituations, or riſen to thoſe honours which are oftener the reward of judicious politics, than of profeſſional ability; but he has acquired that which is a much ſtronger proof both of induſtry and of talent—the uncontеſted title of being the firſt advocate in his country.

Mr. Curran is about fifty years of age. He was born in the county of Cork, of parents who were undiſtinguiſhed by wealth or ſituation; who had neither a fortune by which they could have enabled the ſon to live independently, nor connexions by which they could advance him to a profeſſion

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They were, however, capable of giving him the rudiments of a liberal education, and that ſeems to be the only advantage which he derived from his family. Having qualified himſelf for the univerſity, he entered in the only character in which his circumſtances enabled him to appear, that of a *ſizer* in the college of Dublin; a ſituation of which the emoluments are very trivial, while the marks of inferiority which diſtinguiſh it from that of the other ſtudents, are of the moſt mortifying kind. The ſizers have, indeed, their tuition free of expence; but they are obliged to keep the rolls of their tutors, and attend to the weekly diſtribution of fines and puniſhments of the pupils. They have alſo their commons *gratis*, but they dine only on the fragments of the fellows' table, and are compellable to diſcharge, in the dining-hall, ſeveral menial ſervices.

In this ſituation did Mr. C. paſs his firſt year at the univerſity; nor did he appear, in point of pecuniary circumſtances, to ſtand at the head even of this humble claſs. It is a fact, that the man who poſſeſſed powers that could mould the heart, charm the imagination, and guide the judgment of a ſenate, or of a court, was often deſtitute of a whole coat!

At the uſual time (two years after entrance) he obtained a ſcholarſhip; by which, and by the emoluments ariſing from ſome petty offices generally beſtowed on ſcholars, he emerged from the diſtreſs in which he had been hitherto involved.

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The remainder of his college career is not marked by any peculiar circumſtances; he obtained the uſual honours with which the policy of the univerſity rewards induſtry and talents, and is ſaid to have made ſome progreſs in reading the laborious courſe which is preſcribed for fellowſhip candidates; but whether diſguſted with the drudgery, or deterred by the magnitude of the undertaking, he ſoon deſiſted from the purſuit, and turned his attention to the bar.

Previouſly to his becoming a ſtudent in the Inns of Court in London, Mr. Curran married a lady of his own country. This match appears to have been founded in inclination, for ſhe did not bring him a fortune ſufficient to compenſate the inconveniences into which ſuch a premature connexion muſt have thrown him. Of the means by which he was enabled to ſupport himſelf and wife, during his ſtudies in England, and afterwards to defray the expence of his call to the bar, nothing certain is known; it is natural to ſuppoſe, however, that with talents like his, it would not be difficult to procure a livelihood by his literary exertions. But whatever might have been the mode by which his finances were ſupplied, it is certain that when he firſt came to the bar, he was in extreme poverty. He reſided in Caven-ſtreet, Dublin, a place occupied entirely by the loweſt claſs of people, and which, in point of *gentility*, is on a level with the leaſt reputable part of Weſtminſter.

Mrs. Curran had now brought him a child; and being

being unable to indulge in the practice so common in Ireland, of sending their children to be nursed abroad, she was obliged to undergo the labour of discharging at once the duties of nurse, housewife, and cook. About this time he became a frequenter of a convivial society, originally formed by some young barristers, and called the *Monks of the Screw*. Although the members of this institution were merry, they were poor; the object of their meetings was to forget, in good fellowship, the cares of life, and relax the mind from the intenseness of legal studies. The devotion of the Monks, however, was promoted by humbler beverage than the juice of the grape, and their temple was nothing more than an upper room in a Cavan-street ale-house. Poor as such a society must have been, the circumstances of Mr. Curran were so much more humble, that they were forwarded by his connexion even with it. As the club affected to be *select*, it became necessary, at length, that they should have an apartment to themselves; they therefore engaged one at a certain rent, and Mr. Curran was complimented with the use of it, for the residence of himself and his family, except only during those evenings on which the members assembled. He must have been poor, indeed, who lodged in such a mansion!

Mr. Curran was not the only man of talents who, at that time, belonged to this society, and whom a subsequent display of genius, and of learning, raised to eminence. The present Chief Baron

of

of the Iriſh Exchequer, Lord Yelverton, the early intimate and friend of Curran, was one of its original members. Though more fortunate than him in his political, as well as forenſic purſuits, the connexion firſt formed and cemented between them in the poverty of their early years (for Lord Yelverton, like Curran, had to ſtruggle with the difficulties of a narrow fortune), has continued through every viciſſitude of ſucceeding life, not only unbroken, but in full ſtrength.

That learning and talents are often enabled to raiſe themſelves into notice, without the fortunate co-operation of extrinſic circumſtances, is an obſervation which has been frequently exemplified in every profeſſion; but, perhaps, more frequently in that of the law, than any other. Our young barriſter, with qualities which are as likely to ſtrike at firſt ſight, as thoſe poſſeſſed by any of his contemporaries, remained, however, for ſome time at the bar entirely unnoticed. The attention of the public was turned toward him, for the firſt time, in rather a ſingular way.

He had been engaged as agent by one of the candidates at a conteſted election, and in the courſe of the poll, it became neceſſary for him to make objections to a vote proffered by the adverſe party, which he did in that ſtrong and ſarcaſtic manner for which he is ſo remarkable. His antagoniſt, a man of rude and overbearing manners, *felt* the pungency of his wit, and not immediately recogniſing the barriſter under a ſhabby coat, and a mean appear-

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ance (for nature has not been very favourable in external decorations), he applied to him ſome very groſs epithets. With more ſpirit, perhaps, than decorum, Mr. Curran leaped from his ſeat, ſeized him by the collar, and was prevented only by the interpoſition of the by-ſtanders from chaſtiſing him on the ſpot. Not being precluded, however, from aſſerting his independence in that way, which could alone be tolerated in the preſence of a magiſtrate, he, therefore, in a few pithy ſentences, diſcloſed his *mind* and his *character:* his antagoniſt had generoſity enough to acknowledge his error, and apologized to Mr. Curran for the conſequences of his miſtake; nay, inſtead of reſenting the violence with which he had repelled the inſult, he granted him his friendſhip, and by his recommendation and patronage very eſſentially promoted his future intereſts.

From that period he began to riſe rapidly. Within leſs than ſix months he quitted his gratuitous lodgings in Cavan-ſtreet, and removed nearer to the more reputable part of the town. Mrs. Curran no longer diſhonoured her lord's circumſtances, by appearing in the diſcharge of thoſe domeſtic offices which are uſually performed by deputy; nay, in leſs than a year, the riſing proſperity of the family was viſible in the luxury of a one-horſe chair! Merit was now finding its proper level, and, in this inſtance at leaſt, we no longer behold great learning and uncommon genius ſtruggling

gling with adverſity, or ſullied in the eſtimation of vulgar minds, by an undeſerved poverty!

In 1784, we find Mr. Curran ſeated in the Houſe of Commons *, and ſeconding, with much ſportive humour, every effort of the popular party for the emancipation of the country, and the eſtabliſhment of its commercial freedom and political independence.

During the arduous and intereſting period in which Mr. Fitzgibbon filled the office of Attorney-general, he was one of the leading men in oppoſition, and of courſe came into frequent colliſion with that dogmatical and haughty lawyer. The high tone of defiance on legal or conſtitutional queſtions, with which the Attorney-general endeavoured to overbear his opponents, was more frequently ridiculed by the wit, than combated by the arguments, of Mr. Curran: if in this mode of combat, he did not always repel the blow, he at leaſt evaded its force; and though he could not on every occaſion boaſt of victory, he at leaſt eſcaped defeat. Of one of theſe conteſts, the iſſue was more ſerious; it produced a duel, in which Mr. C. was the challenger, but which happily was attended with no injury to either party.

While Mr. Curran was thus ſucceſsfully attentive to buſineſs, he did not ſuffer opportunities of pleaſure to paſs by him unenjoyed. He was na-

* He had received a ſilk-gown a little before this, by the Portland adminiſtration.

turally,

turally, indeed, a man of uncommon gaiety; poſſeſſing an exquiſite ear for muſic, and being himſelf no ordinary performer on the *forte-piano*, it was not ſtrange that the Circe-like allurements of Mrs. Billington ſhould have enchanted him for a time.

Although Mr. Curran has been uſually conſidered a man of gallantry, he enjoys an uninterrupted claim to the character of a good father. He has one ſon, who is now (1798) about to be called to the bar, and two daughters; to the education of all theſe he has paid the moſt affectionate attention.

It has been already obſerved, that, in his parliamentary character, he has always been attached to the popular cauſe. Indeed, from his outſet in life, he has been a *ſteady* friend to the legiſlative independence, to free commerce, and a reform in the repreſentation of Ireland. He has uniformly declared againſt the war with France, and he has combated, with unremitted vigour, during five years, the coercive ſyſtem which has been purſued in Ireland. Finding the inefficacy of that oppoſition, he has withdrawn, along with many of thoſe with whom he had co-operated, from the Houſe of Commons, and is now known to the public only as an advocate. In this capacity he has lately defended many of his unfortunate countrymen; and is ſaid to be about to retire for a time, and perhaps for ever, from his native country.

As a lawyer Mr. Curran has not particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf, by the extent of his knowledge

or the depth of his reſearches: he ſtands, in this reſpect only, on an equality with his competitors; it is as an advocate that he outſtrips them. Indeed, in this character, he has not, perhaps, his equal in the empire. With Mr. Erſkine he has been frequently compared; but in the opinion of ſome who have long admired, and attentively conſidered the reſpective excellencies of each, the latter holds only a ſecond place.

Mr. Erſkine is an acute, grave, laborious, and frequently an eloquent pleader; he turns the bright ſide of his client's caſe to full view, urges its ſtrong parts with the force of a maſculine underſtanding, and covers its weakneſs with very ingenious ſophiſtry; but the jury ſtill remember that Mr. Erſkine is an advocate, and are on their guard againſt his arts.

Mr. Curran, while he diſplays as much acuteneſs as Mr. E. gets nearer to the heart and paſſions of his auditors; and by the ardour and animation of an eloquence neither fictitious nor forced, excludes every feeling and every thought but thoſe which he wiſhes to excite. In the examination of witneſſes, too, Mr. Curran is eminently powerful. In his manner he reſembles Mr. Garrow, but, perhaps, excels even that gentleman in probing a rotten cauſe to the bottom, in eliciting truth from prevarication, and touching the ſecret ſtrings that actuate the human heart.

Mr. Curran's parliamentary ſpeeches ſeldom poſſeſs the excellence which has marked his profeſſional

ſional defences. They diſplay much leſs of the *mens divinior*; they are irregular, and deſultory, and ſeem to be rather the play of his mind than its ſerious exertion. They, however, abound with admirable ſtrokes of invective, and irony, and though they aſſiſt but little in guiding deciſion, on the point diſcuſſed, yet produce a good effect, by holding up political profligacy and corruption to contempt and deteſtation.

Of claſſical learning Mr. Curran ſeems to have early laid in a good ſtore; his alluſions to the Roman poets are frequent, and his quotations from them are prompt, and happy. It is a curious circumſtance, that to ſtudy the Latin claſſics, and commit to memory remarkable paſſages, formed a part of Mr. Curran's preparation for the bar; and that he continues, from his experience of its utility, to recommend his practice to the young ſtudent of the municipal law.

On the ſcore of perſon, Mr. Curran owes but little to nature. His ſtature is low, his figure meagre and ill-formed, and his whole appearance far from being prepoſſeſſing. He has, however, an eye which emits the fire of genius, and is admirably calculated to tranſmit either the ſcintillations of fancy, or that deep pathos of the heart, which he not only feels himſelf, but can ſo powerfully excite in others. Of dreſs he has always been remarkably, perhaps culpably, negligent; for he has often played *Cicero* in the ſenate, in the garb of *Scrub!*

THE HONOURABLE DAINES BARRINGTON,

IS brother to the late Lord Barrington, the preſent Biſhop of Durham, and alſo to Admiral Barrington.

This gentleman was bred to the law, a profeſſion in which he never made any very conſpicuous figure, but was ſucceſſively promoted to be one of the king's counſel, and a Welch judge; the latter of which ſtations he reſigned ſome years ago, on account of his growing infirmities. He has alſo poſſeſſed ſeveral other places under government, ſuch as deputy-keeper of the wardrobe, ſecretary to Greenwich-hoſpital, marſhal of the admiralty, and commiſſioner of ſtores at Gibraltar, the laſt of which only he now retains.

But if Mr. Barrington is not celebrated as a lawyer, he may juſtly claim the honour of being accounted a profound and judicious antiquary, an agreeable companion, and a truly worthy man. In 1775, he publiſhed an Eſſay on the Probability of reaching the North Pole, 4to; and in 1781, a volume of Miſcellanies, alſo in 4to. principally on Antiquarian ſubjects.

In 1766 he preſented the world with a volume of *Obſervations upon the Statutes, from Magna Charta to the* 21 *James I.* in which he ſtrongly enforces a reviſal, and adds a propoſal for new modelling the whole. This is a work of great merit, and a ſecond edition was called for and publiſhed in 1776.

To

To enumerate Mr. Barrington's literary labours, would be an Herculean taſk: among them we find an "Account of ſome Fiſh in Wales;" "Inveſtigation of the Difference between the paſt and preſent Temperature of the Air in Italy;" "Obſervations on Welch Caſtles;" A Controverſy with Dr. Ducarel concerning "Cheſtnut Trees;" "Method of keeping Carp alive out of Water;" Two Letters on Cæſar's Invaſion;" "Eſſay on the periodical Appearance of Birds;" "On the diſtinguiſhed Qualities of the Rabbit and Hare;" "Experiments on the ſinging of Birds;" "Correction of ſome Miſtakes in Ornithology;" "Account of two Welch Muſical Inſtruments;" "On the Remains of the ancient Corniſh Language;" "Inquiry into the Antiquity of Clocks;" "Conjectures relative to certain Remains of vitrified Walls in Scotland;" "On Archery;" "On Muſical Inſtruments;" "On Card-playing."

Moſt of theſe are highly entertaining, and ſome of them evince the moſt profound reſearch.

This very ingenious man was the friend of Dr. Johnſon, and a member of the club in Eſſex-ſtreet, inſtituted by that great moraliſt. He ſtill appertains to a ſociety of *choice ſpirits*, who meet at the Grecian, whither he is ſupported by his man, and returns in a chair to chambers. The templars, the city beaus, and, indeed, the world in general, are much obliged to him for the improvements made in the garden facing the Thames, which exhibits more modern taſte and elegance, than could be well expected from an antiquary.

DR. O'LEARY.

ARTHUR O'LEARY is a native of Cork, in Ireland, and a member of the moſt numerous and leaſt predominant ſect in that country.

After receiving ſome previous inſtruction in his native land, he was ſent to the continent, in 1747, to prepare him for the ſituation for which he was deſigned—that of a prieſt of the Roman catholic church. He accordingly reſided for a conſiderable time at the college of St. Omer's, and became a member of the order of St. Francis.

On the completion of his ſtudies, he was appointed chaplain to a regiment in the ſervice of the prince in whoſe dominions he had been educated; but not entering warmly into the meaſure of engaging the ſubjects of theſe kingdoms to enliſt in foreign battalions, he incurred the diſpleaſure of thoſe in power, and ſoon after returned to the country which had given him birth.

By the aſſiſtance of ſome friends he built a ſmall but decent chapel in his native city; and a circumſtance ſoon occurred which procured him ſome little provincial celebrity. A work, about this time, was publiſhed in Cork, entitled "Thoughts on Nature and Religion." It was written by a Scotch phyſician; and as no one anſwered it, Father O'Leary applied to Dr. Man, the biſhop of the dioceſe in which he reſided, for permiſſion to enter the liſts: now the churches of England and

Rome

Rome happening to think alike on the matter in diſpute, he immediately granted leave. Accordingly, ſoon after this, appeared his "Defence of the Divinity of Chriſt, and the Immortality of the Soul."

When the parliament of Ireland framed a teſt-oath for the Roman catholics, many perſons of tender conſciences ſcrupled to take it. On this, Mr. O'Leary publiſhed his "Loyalty aſſerted, or the Teſt-Oath vindicated;" in which he explained the ſeeming difficulties that occurred, ſo much to the ſatisfaction of the nonjuring catholics in his neighbourhood, that they unanimouſly ſubſcribed.

At that critical period, during the unfortunate war with America, when the combined fleets of France and Spain rode triumphant on the Britiſh coaſt, and threatened an invaſion of Ireland, he addreſſed his catholic countrymen in the moſt energetic language, and in ſuch an effectual manner, as to merit the thanks of every good citizen.

His next publications were in reply to ſome ſevere charges made againſt the Roman catholics, by the late Mr. Weſley; and in theſe he attempted to refute that odious imputation by which they are accuſed of "keeping no faith with heretics!"

Another valuable tract publiſhed by Mr. O'Leary is called "An Eſſay on Toleration, and a Plea for Freedom of Conſcience." In this eſſay the reaſoning is ſolid and perſuaſive, and the whole tenor of it tends to inculcate the principles of liberality and humanity.

These ſix pieces have been publiſhed in a volume, under the title of "Miſcellaneous Tracts;" and it has reached a third, if not a fourth, edition. It is dedicated to the "Monks of St. Patrick," a ſociety of reſpectable men in Ireland, who aſſociated for the ſupport of the conſtitution of their country.

In addition to the literary labours already alluded to, an excellent pamphlet publiſhed in 1786, and entitled, "A Review of ſome intereſting Periods in the Iriſh Hiſtory," is alſo attributed to him; and Mr. Pratt has drawn his character in a very maſterly manner, in his late novel called "Family Secrets," one volume of which is inſcribed to the doctor.

Father O'Leary, as he is familiarly called, and who is ſaid to have received a penſion from government for his public ſervices, has lately printed a ſermon on the preſent ſituation of affairs, which was originally preached at St. Patrick's chapel.

BARRY, LORD YELVERTON,

CHIEF BARON OF THE EXCHEQUER IN IRELAND.

LIKE many other of thoſe men whoſe talents and virtues have raiſed them in Ireland to the higheſt places in the law, Chief Baron Yelverton owes nothing to illuſtrious birth, to family connexions, or to wealth accumulated by anceſtors. If

report

report be true (and it is highly honourable to him), his lordſhip's immediate progenitor was nothing more than a petty dealer in wool, in the neighbourhood of Clonmell, far from affluent in point of circumſtances, and unable to do more for Barry, his ſon, than to give him the rudiments of a claſſical education, which enabled him to enter the univerſity of Dublin, as a ſizer, a deſcription of ſtudents, accuſtomed to receive both tuition and commons free of expence. At the uſual time he obtained a ſcholarſhip, a reward given in that univerſity to diſtinguiſhed merit, and to which beſides honourable rank, certain emoluments are annexed, in addition to board, not exceeding, however, on the whole, 20*l.* per annum.

Mr. Yelverton, before the expiration of his ſcholarſhip, determined on the law as his profeſſion; but to acquire knowledge therein, and afterwards to be called to the bar, requires "a portion of this world's wealth," which unluckily his finances were unable to afford.

His marriage, ſhortly after, with a young lady poſſeſſed of three or four hundred pounds, removed this embarraſſment, and enabled him, with ſome literary exertions of his own, to keep his terms in London, and obtain his call to the Iriſh bar in 1764. When he became a barriſter, he occupied very obſcure lodgings in Eſſex-ſtreet, a part of the town which ſtill continues to be unfaſhionable. Here he remained for ſome time, and proved, in his own caſe, that even firſt-rate legal

talents may lie long in obſcurity. The induſtry and ability of Mr. Yelverton, however, did at laſt work their way; but many years elapſed between his aſſumption of a wig and gown, and his becoming a character known to the public in any other way than as a profeſſional man, labouring ſucceſsfully for his client and his fee.

We do not, indeed, hear of him in a public capacity, until the occurrence of that important criſis, when the calamities of the country urged its friends to ſtruggle with the then weakened power of Great Britain, and to obtain for Ireland an enlargement of commercial privileges, and ſhortly afterwards the eſtabliſhment of a legiſlative independence. Mr. Yelverton, who had now got into * parliament, co-operated with the other patriots of the day in the purſuit of theſe objects, and was conſpicuous for the energy and boldneſs of his exertions. When they were once attained, he not only ceaſed to lend his talents to the popular party, but, on the contrary, he oppoſed them, ranged himſelf on the ſide of the court, and reſiſted every attempt to attain reform in the repreſentation by means of the volunteer aſſociations.

In 1782, he had been appointed by the Portland adminiſtration to ſucceed Mr. Scott, who was diſmiſſed from the important and confidential place of Attorney-general, and he acquitted himſelf in that ſituation, under the ſucceeding adminiſtration, with

* He was returned a member of that memorable parliamen which was calledin 1776.

ſuch

ſuch unremitting zeal, in counteracting the attempts of the volunteers, and labouring for their diſperſion, as effectually recommended him to the favour of government. The beneficial effects reſulting to himſelf from this conduct were ſoon apparent, for in 1784, he was raiſed to the bench, as Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

His elevation, though generally conſidered as a reward for his political ſervices, was yet not unwelcome to the public, which could recogniſe, even in the unpopular ſenator, the learning, the talents, and the profeſſional integrity of a great lawyer. Removed from the Houſe of Commons to the bench, and yet not raiſed to the peerage, his opportunities of rendering political ſervices to the adminiſtration were now greatly leſſened. The conſequence was, that either relaxing in his zeal from want of occaſion to exert it, or finding its fervour cooled by not being raiſed to a title, like his competitor Scott, who was created Baron Earlsfort in 1784, his politics appeared to be neutraliſed, until, in 1789, he declared himſelf a decided friend to the party which aſſerted the right of Ireland to chooſe her own regent, and accordingly proffered that office to the Prince of Wales. This, however, was forgotten, and he was created Baron Yelverton, of Avonmore, in the county of Cork, June 16, 1795.

No man poſſeſſes a higher character in private life than Lord Yelverton. Simple and unaſſuming in his manners, with a goodneſs of heart which

fraud

fraud and cunning but too often make the dupe of their artifices, he is beloved by all, and impoſed on, even in the moſt trivial occurrences of life, by many. Though enjoying a ſtrength and compreſſion of intellect fitted to direct and to enlighten ſenates, he may be governed, miſled, or baffled, by the moſt ſhallow of his domeſtics. Of the convivial glaſs no man is more fond, and yet ſlander has not charged him with intemperance. His lordſhip loves, and, without the leaſt inconvenience to his intellects, can bear a conſiderable quantity of the enlivening grape.

As a public ſpeaker, his leading characteriſtic is STRENGTH. His voice, full, deep, and ſonorous, added to a pronunciation ſlow and ſolemn, gives great weight to what is dictated by a mind well ſtored with legal and general knowledge; by an underſtanding capable of arranging, in the moſt judicious manner, the excellent materials which it poſſeſſes; and by a fancy not deſtitute of the powers of embelliſhment. His manner is animated, impreſſive, and almoſt overbearing. Of quick conception and feelings, often irritable, and apt to be rouſed to indignation by every appearance of oppreſſion or of fraud, his lordſhip appears to diſplay all the ſenſations of a good man. But on the bench, he ſeems, perhaps, to poſſeſs too little of that ſtoical apathy, which is ſo eſſential to the aſcertainment of guilt or innocence; a cauſe is no ſooner opened, than he catches, or ſuppoſes he catches, ſufficient to guide his deciſion; and every

attempt

attempt which the pleader afterwards makes to remove this firſt impreſſion, his lordſhip ſtrenuouſly reſiſts as an unworthy endeavour to impoſe on his underſtanding, and to throw the veil of eloquence around truth and juſtice. This fault excepted, and to which Lord Mansfield himſelf was but too prone, Lord Yelverton is allowed to be an excellent judge, of inflexible integrity, and extenſive legal learning.

RIGHT HONOURABLE ISAAC CORRY.

THIS gentleman is the ſon of a reputable, but not very wealthy, merchant of the town of Newry, in the county of Down. A conſiderable ſhew of talents, and great profeſſions of independent and ſteady patriotiſm, rendered him in early life a favourite with the public; while eaſy, poliſhed manners, added to an engaging perſon, procured him the friendſhip of his townſmen, who, in 1776, became his conſtituents.

Mr. Corry was bred to the law, and was actually called to the bar in the year 1779, a very remarkable period in the hiſtory of Ireland. Soon diſguſted, either with the labours of the profeſſion, or the ill ſucceſs with which thoſe labours were attended, he threw away his bag, which had never been over-charged with briefs, and became an adventurer in the field of politics.

He was not long ſeated in the Houſe of Commons,

mons, when he became one of the moſt warm and animated members of the then oppoſition. His induſtry, which applied itſelf to every ſubject that emerged in the courſe of parliamentary buſineſs, but particularly to the calculations of revenue and finance; his fluency in debate, the correctneſs and animation of his language, accompanied with a very ſucceſsful diſplay of apparent modeſty, rendered him not only a ſhewy, but an uſeful partiſan.

For ſome years Mr. Corry devoted himſelf to the popular cauſe; he ſcrutinized every miniſterial meaſure, railed againſt Britiſh influence, contended for place and penſion-bills, and laboured, with much energy and effect, to obtain a ſimilar conſtruction of the navigation-act in both countries. But, alas! the hour was approaching, when he was no longer to grace the oppoſition bench, teaſe a lord lieutenant's ſecretary with patriotic motions, or embarraſs the financier with the Cocker-like alluſions of arithmetical eloquence!

The Marquis of Buckingham aſſumed the vice-royſhip of Ireland in 1787, and having diſmiſſed a very conſiderable number of officers in the different departments for neglect and peculation, it became neceſſary to replace them with gentlemen poſſeſſing the public confidence. With his lordſhip, ſkill in accounts was a firſt-rate qualification; who, therefore, could be a fitter object of his favour than Mr. Corry? Mr. Corry was accordingly nominated to a poſt in the ordnance, of one thouſand pounds per annum. The viceroy, affecting popularity,

larity, thus appointed to office a popular repreſentative, and the popular repreſentative, wiſhing to ſerve himſelf and the country, accepted the appointment.

From the days of the Marquis of Buckingham, Mr. Corry has exhibited himſelf, during a ſeries of viceroys, one of the beſt ſervants of adminiſtration, and has enjoyed a ſucceſſion of very lucrative places in the ordnance, revenue, and treaſury.

But although Mr. Corry has, in ſome degree, relinquiſhed the love and applauſe of his countrymen for the ſmiles of the court, and the emoluments of office, it is yet but juſt to ſay, that he was not, during ſeveral years, the forward advocate of the ancient ſyſtem; nor has he ever, with the ſhameleſs zeal of moſt proſelytes, become either the ſlanderer or the perſecutor of the party which he deſerted. He has borne himſelf with a meekneſs and temperance which diſarm reſentment, and preſerve to him the regard and eſteem of thoſe with whom he formerly acted. In many inſtances he has voted againſt the miniſter on queſtions which, in his patriotic days, he had ſupported; and in others, he has modeſtly withdrawn on a diviſion, in order to preſerve at once his place and his conſiſtency. In the late conteſt between the court and the country party, he has, however, been an advocate for the coercive ſyſtem, and acceded to all the ſevere laws which were enacted previouſly to the inſurrection.

Mr. Corry's perſon is manly, and his countenance expreſſive of ſpirit and good ſenſe; thoſe ſcenes of

gaiety

gaiety and diſſipation in which part of his juveniſe days was ſpent, and which contributed to give to his manners that poliſh which we admire, have alſo impreſſed on his face ſome of the indications of the *bon-vivant*. He is ſtill unmarried, having hitherto ſcorned the trammels of wedlock, and enjoyed the delights of love in the leſs moral way of a man of faſhion.

There is not a more influencing ſpeaker in the Iriſh Houſe of Commons. His voice is ſtrong and mellow; his diction correct; and his ſtyle fluent, copious, moderately ornamented, and always above mediocrity. On moſt topics he is capable of ſpeaking in a manner which always pleaſes, and ſometimes inſtructs; but it is principally upon ſubjects connected with finance, revenue, or commerce, that he appears to the greateſt advantage. To theſe he ſeems chiefly to have directed his attention, and in theſe he has acquired very extenſive and uſeful knowledge. Indeed, wherever clearneſs and ſtrength can recommend a ſpeaker to his auditory, Mr. Corry is calculated to command applauſe, for his underſtanding is of the firſt claſs. From imagination he derives little aid; his fancy is either ſterile, or he repreſſes its exuberance, for in his ſpeeches are to be found few of thoſe flowers which decorate the barren track of inveſtigation, or beautify the field of dry diſquiſition. His ornaments conſiſt in extreme neatneſs of diction, ſmoothneſs and fluency of periods, and well-judged arrangement of matter. Theſe, added to the correct

animation

animation of his manner, the round fullneſs of his voice, and the effect of a good perſon, procure for his opinions a great degree of attention and reſpect.

It was ſome time ſince thought that the preſent Chancellor of the Iriſh Exchequer would be raiſed to the peerage, and Mr. Corry appointed to ſucceed him. That ſuch an arrangement will take place is highly probable. A.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN BERESFORD.

MR. BERESFORD is a younger branch of that family, whoſe head is the Marquis of Waterford. Educated for the bar, he was called to it ſo early as 1761, and for ſome years practiſed with tolerable ſucceſs. He was, however, at laſt induced to quit that laborious profeſſion, where reward can only be obtained by the moſt rigid induſtry, for the golden proſpects which opened to him in the field of political adventure. Thoſe proſpects he has abundantly realized, having raiſed himſelf to high office, and ſtill higher influence in the ſtate, ſpread his branches over the land, and ſtruck his roots too deep in the ſoil to be ſhaken even by thoſe dreadful ſtorms which have lately agitated Ireland. Such is his influence, that he is reported to have procured for himſelf, and his various family connexions, places, ſalaries, &c. to the amount of above 40,000l. per annum.

For

For many years back, Mr. Beresford has been at the head of the Iriſh revenue, in which ſituation he is ſaid to have acquired and diſplayed a very profound and extenſive knowledge, not only of the affairs of that department, but of the general commerce of the country. That he is a man of buſineſs, and indefatigable induſtry, cannot be denied; and that he poſſeſſes talents of ſome kind, is fully proved by the ſucceſs which has crowned his endeavours.

The obtaining from parliament a ſum of money, not leſs than half a million, for building, under the name of a cuſtom-houſe, a palace, part of which he himſelf was to inhabit, eſtabliſhes, beyond controverſy, the extent of his power, and the ſucceſs of his addreſs; while the judicious diſpoſitions which he has made, as one of the commiſſioners for widening the ſtreets of the capital, give him an indiſputable title to the praiſe of great foreſight and ſkill.

Of a long ſucceſſion of viceroys, with a ſingle exception only, Mr. Beresford is ſuppoſed to have had the ear; they have been governed in a great meaſure by his councils, and they have not proved ungrateful to their adviſer. The influence of a man thus circumſtanced, muſt neceſſarily have become extenſive; it has accordingly inſinuated itſelf into every department of the ſtate, and given to that family a degree of ſtrength which enables it almoſt to dictate to any adminiſtration. One viceroy alone (Lord Fitzwilliam) has attempted,

of

of late, to govern without the Beresfords, and the conſequence was, that he was driven from the helm. Had Lord Cornwallis preſided as a civil magiſtrate, and thwarted their plans, he too, probably, would have felt their power.

Poſſeſſing ſuch weight in the councils of the country, it is not to be ſuppoſed that Mr. B. ever attempts to quarrel with a meaſure recommended by adminiſtration. In fact, the Britiſh cabinet is ſaid to patronize no project, which has not, in the firſt inſtance, been approved by him, and a few other men of buſineſs who know the country. The celebrated commercial propoſitions of Mr. Ord, in 1785, however, form an exception. The alterations which were made in thoſe propoſitions in England, had not Mr. B's previous concurrence; and though he at length reluctantly ſupported them, they miſcarried, as he had very ſagaciouſly preſaged *.

Although Mr. Beresford, and his family, have ſo much influence in the Iriſh adminiſtration, he does not, perſonally, exert himſelf in the Houſe, in defending or ſupporting the meaſures which he adviſes. He never ſpeaks but on ſubjects relating to revenue, or the buſineſs of the commiſſioners during the debates on wide ſtreets. When repelling the inſinuations of improper or corrupt conduct, with which he has been ſometimes haraſſed,

* The grand queſtion concerning the Union, alſo ſupported by him, as has been ſaid with reluctance, and oppoſed by his brother, hitherto exhibits a marked affinity to the fate of the commercial propoſitions.

he ſhews great anxiety to convince, but his declamation is unimpaſſioned. His voice is very clear, and ſufficiently ſtrong, but it wants variety, and has no harmony in its tones. His diction is, indeed, ſimple, but not correct, and never riſes above the level of colloquial converſation.

Even his political enemies allow Mr. Beresford to poſſeſs a very amiable private character; for he muſt be confeſſed to be a good friend, father, and huſband. In his perſon, he is tall, and though now an old man, he is yet florid, erect, and handſome.

RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN FOSTER,

SPEAKER OF THE IRISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IF the poſſeſſion of a ſtrong and correct underſtanding, much general knowledge, and a profound acquaintance with the commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural intereſts of his native country, conſtitute a juſt ground to reſpect, it is due to Mr. Foſter; for undoubtedly one more able, in point of intellect, or better informed in the very important inſtances we have mentioned, is not to be found among the public men of Ireland.

John Foſter is the ſon of the late Anthony, Lord Chief Baron Foſter. He received his education at the univerſity of Dublin, where he was contemporary with the preſent Chancellor, and Mr. Grattan. In Michaelmas term, 1766, he was called to the Iriſh bar, while his father, the Chief Baron, was yet on the bench. To Mr. Foſter, law was but a

nominal

nominal profeſſion; he applied himſelf to other ſtudies, and no doubt had higher game in view, than the humble ſituation of a labouring barriſter, or even the more dignified one of a *puiſné judge*. He accordingly turned his thoughts towards ſtatiſtical enquiries; and in the moſt dry and difficult occupations, perhaps, in which the human mind can be employed, he made a proficiency to which he now owes his elevation to the moſt honourable office which a commoner can fill.

Shortly after his call to the bar, Mr. Foſter was returned to ſerve in Parliament for the county of Louth, and ſoon became as conſpicuous for talents as for knowledge. At that time, indeed, it was leſs difficult to become eminent in an Iriſh Houſe of Commons than at preſent, becauſe the field for exertion being narrow, much ability, comparatively ſpeaking, was not called forth; but in any aſſembly of legiſlators, he was qualified to ſhine; and in that of Ireland, the manly wiſdom of his ſyſtem of corn-laws, a ſyſtem which he began to form ſhortly after his coming into Parliament, will give immortality to his name. From being unable to ſupply two-thirds of her people with bread, in 1770, in conſequence of the operation of Mr. Foſter's plan, his native country has not only become equal to feed her inhabitants without lying at the mercy of other nations, but actually to export grain to the amount of 200,000*l.* annually.

After the agriculture of Ireland, the next great

object of Mr. Foſter was the linen manufacture, and this has derived, from his zeal and intelligence, nearly equal benefit with agriculture itſelf. His attention to it has been unremitted; and the regulations, from time to time, introduced by his advice, have not only greatly increaſed the quantity manufactured and exported, but ſecured to Iriſh linens, in foreign countries, a character which muſt, for many years, operate powerfully in their favour.

During the very period in which Mr. Foſter was rendering to Ireland benefits ſo important, his name was not merely odious, but even execrated among the populace, at leaſt the populace of the metropolis. This is not much to the credit of popular feeling; but there are ſome circumſtances which may account for the fact, notwithſtanding that they certainly cannot juſtify it.

Although Mr. Foſter was thus laudably employed in advancing the agriculture and manufactures of the country, he was, at the ſame time, known to be adverſe to every attempt toward eſtabliſhing the independence of the legiſlature, and abrogating the unjuſt reſtrictions, by which Great Britain had fettered the commerce of Ireland. At that time, too, the manufacturers of the capital were either ſtarving for want of employment, or kept alive by eleemoſynary contributions. Protecting duties for theſe famiſhed artiſans were called for, and Mr. Forſter oppoſed them with all his powers. It was natural that the

hungry

hungry ſhould hate the man who thus declared his hoſtility to meaſures which, it was hoped, would give them bread. The remote operation of laws, however wiſe, the bulk of the nation could not foreſee; and even if they could foreſee, it would not relieve the preſſure of preſent want, or enable the famiſhing workman to ſatisfy the calls of nature.

Whatever Mr. Foſter's merits, therefore, might be, the populace, reaſoning from what was obvious, inſtead of what was remote, looked on him with deteſtation; his having declared an opinion againſt the utility of promoting the ſilk manufacture, was another cauſe which raiſed him a hoſt of enemies. This prejudice continued for ſeveral years, and at one time, ſuch was the general deteſtation, that it was thought neceſſary to give him a guard for his protection.

In 1785, Mr. Foſter was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer; an office for which his comprehenſive and methodical mind, added to his extenſive knowledge of the reſources of the country, admirably fitted him. In 1786, he, however, reſigned the Chancellorſhip, on being choſen ſpeaker of the Houſe of Commons, in which dignified ſituation he has ſince continued. At the commencement of the late Parliament, the friends of Mr. W. B. Ponſonby made a powerful effort in ſupport of *his* pretenſions to the chair; but they were unable to counteract that influence which the experience, talents, and information of Mr.

Foſter deſervedly gave him. He was accordingly choſen then by a large majority; and, by the preſent Houſe of Commons, he was elected without oppoſition, moſt of the popular members having ſeceded.

The duties of this high office are diſcharged by him with great ability. Deeply read in the law and privileges of parliament, no incident occurs in which he is not able to guide the conduct of the houſe, while his punctuality, love of order, and good taſte, give facility to buſineſs, and a decorous elegance to legiſlative arrangements.

As a politician, Mr. Foſter ſeems formerly to have acted ſteadily upon one principle, that of promoting, to the utmoſt of his power, the intereſts of Ireland, ſo far as thoſe intereſts did not interfere with any of the intereſts of Great Britain. Where a competition could exiſt, until the agitation of the queſtion concerning the Union, he has uniformly been ſwayed by the latter. There is another ſtrong feature in his political character; he has always profeſſed himſelf adverſe to the admiſſion of Catholics to the privileges of the conſtitution. On the bill for allowing them to vote at elections, he delivered a ſpeech againſt that meaſure, confeſſedly the beſt which was made in either houſe on the ſubject.

But, within the laſt three months, an entire change ſeems to have taken place in Mr. Foſter's conduct and opinions. Perceiving that an union might not only prove unfriendly to his own inte-

reſts,

reſts, but be tantamount to the disfranchiſement of that branch of the legiſlature, over which he preſides, he has manfully oppoſed all the allurements, and all the threats of the miniſter, and obtained the thanks not only of his own conſtituents, but the applauſe of the whole nation.

In private life, Mr. Foſter appears rather high bred than affable; diſplaying more of the lofty manners of the laſt age, than the eaſy and familiar habits of the preſent. His ſtyle of living is magnificent, and his reliſh for *improving* inſatiable. To theſe cauſes, perhaps, it is to be attributed, that, with an income of not leſs than 8000*l. per annum*, he is ſtill an embarraſſed man*. Mrs. Foſter was created Baroneſs Oriel, in 1790.

CHARLES BURNEY, MUS.D. F.R.S

THIS gentleman, whoſe celebrity is equally great in the literary and the muſical world, is a native of Shrewſbury, and was born in 1726. He received the rudiments of his education at the free grammar-ſchool of that town, and completed it at the public ſchool of Cheſter. At the latter place he commenced his muſical ſtudies, under Mr. Baker, or-

* In order to reſcue Mr. F. from dependence, his countrymen are ſaid to have lately ſubſcribed a large ſum of money, which is to be preſented to him, as a reward for his late meritorious exertions.

ganiſt of the cathedral, who was a pupil of Dr. Blow.

He returned to Shrewſbury about the year 1741, and continued the ſtudy of muſic, under his half-brother, Mr. James Burney, who was an eminent organiſt and teacher in that town.

In 1744 he met with Dr. Arne at Cheſter, who perceiving his talents to be reſpectable, prevailed upon his friends to ſend him to London. He continued to profit under the inſtructions of that celebrated maſter full three years. In 1749, he was elected organiſt of St. Dionis Back-church, Fen-church-ſtreet, with an annual ſalary of only thirty pounds; and the ſame year was engaged to take the organ-part at the new concert eſtabliſhed at the King's-arms, Cornhill, inſtead of that which had been held at the Swan-tavern, burnt down the year before. At this time he compoſed for Drury-lane theatre the following muſical pieces, viz. Robin Hood, a comic opera, by Moſes Mendez; and Queen Mab, a pantomime; which laſt had aſtoniſhing ſucceſs, being played every winter for nearly thirty years.

Being in an ill ſtate of health, which, in the opinion of his phyſicians, indicated a conſumption, he was prevailed upon to retire into the country. Accordingly he went to Lynn Regis, in Norfolk, where he was choſen organiſt, with a ſalary of one hundred pounds a-year. He continued nine years there, and formed the deſign of compiling his *General Hiſtory of Muſic*.

In

In 1760, his health being re-eſtabliſhed, he gladly returned once more to the metropolis, with a large and young family, and entered upon his profeſſion with an increaſe of profit and reputation. His eldeſt daughter, who was then about eight years old, obtained great notice in the muſical world, by her aſtoniſhing performances on the harpſichord.

Soon after his arrival in London, he compoſed ſeveral much-admired concertos; and in 1766 he brought out at Drury-lane theatre a tranſlation of Rouſſeau's *Devin du Village*, which he had executed during his reſidence at Lynn. It had, however, no great ſucceſs.

In 1769, he had the honorary degree of Doctor of Muſic conferred upon him by the univerſity of Oxford; on which occaſion he performed an exerciſe in the muſical ſchool of that univerſity. This exerciſe, conſiſting of an anthem of great length, with an overture, airs, recitatives, and choruſes, was ſeveral times afterwards performed at the Oxford muſic meetings; and, under the direction of the famous Emanuel Bach, in St. Katherine's church, Hamburgh.

The year following he travelled through France and Italy, as well with a view to improvement in his profeſſion, as to collect materials for his intended *Hiſtory of Muſic*, an object which he had ſeldom out of his mind, from the time he firſt conceived the idea of ſuch a work. In 1771, he publiſhed his "Muſical Tour; or, Preſent State of Muſic in

France

France and Italy." This work was very well received by the public, and is ſo good a model for travellers to keep their journals by, that Dr. Johnſon profeſſedly adopted it as his when he viſited the Hebrides. Speaking of his own book, "I had," ſaid the Doctor, "that clever dog Burney's Muſical "Tour in my eye."

In 1772, he travelled through the Netherlands, Germany, and Holland, and in the courſe of the next year he publiſhed an account of his journey in two volumes octavo. The ſame year he was alſo elected Fellow of the Royal Society.

In 1776, appeared the firſt volume in quarto of his "*General Hiſtory of Muſic.*" The remaining volumes of this very elaborate and intelligent work were publiſhed at irregular periods; and the four, of which it now conſiſts, were not completed till the year 1789.

In 1779, at the deſire of Sir John Pringle, Dr. Burney drew up for the Philoſophical Tranſactions "An Account of Little CROTCH, the Infant Muſician, now Profeſſor of Muſic in the Univerſity of Oxford." The grand muſical feſtival in 1785, in commemoration of HANDEL, held in Weſtminſter abbey, was conſidered as deſerving of a particular memoir; the hiſtorian of muſic was therefore fixed upon as the moſt proper perſon to draw it up. Accordingly, the ſame year, a ſplendid volume was publiſhed by Dr. Burney, in quarto, for the benefit of the muſical fund. In this work the Doctor diſplayed eminent talents as a biographer; and the

Life

Life of Handel is one of the few good memoirs which exiſt in our language.

In 1796, he publiſhed the "Life of Metaſtaſio," in three volumes, octavo; but this performance wants that arrangement and judicious ſelection which characterize his former publications. Beſides theſe productions, Dr. Burney wrote "The Cunning Man;" "An Eſſay towards the Hiſtory of Comets;" "Plan of a Public Muſic School," &c. &c.

His muſical works, in addition to thoſe already mentioned, are: Sonatas for two Violins and a Baſs, two parts. Six Cornet Pieces, with an Introduction and Fugue for the Organ. A Cantata and Songs. Six Duets for two German Flutes. Six Concertos, for Violins, &c. in eight parts. Two Sonatas for a Piano Forte, Violin, and Violoncello, two parts. Six Harpſichord Leſſons; &c. &c.

Dr. Burney has been twice married, and has had eight children, of whom ſeveral have manifeſted very ſuperior abilities.

His eldeſt daughter was celebrated for her extraordinary muſical powers.

The ſecond, Madame D'Arblay, is univerſally known and admired as the author of Evelina, Cecilia, and Camilla.

The eldeſt ſon, James, ſailed round the world with Captain Cooke, and afterwards commanded the Briſtol, of 50 guns, in the Eaſt-Indies: he has publiſhed ſome judicious tracts on the beſt means of defending our iſland againſt an invading enemy.

The

The ſecond ſon, CHARLES BURNEY, LL.D. is maſter of a reſpectable academy at Greenwich, and well known in the learned world by his profound knowledge of the Greek language, and his maſterly and claſſical criticiſms in the Monthly Review.

For many years Doctor BURNEY reſided in the houſe (No. 36, St. Martin's-ſtreet, Leiceſter-fields), formerly occupied by Sir Iſaac Newton; during the laſt ten, having been appointed organiſt of Chelſea hoſpital, he has inhabited an elegant ſuit of apartments in that college, and enjoys a handſome independency. He ſtill ſpends ſeveral hours every day in his library, which is ſtored with a great variety of valuable and curious books, many of them collected during his travels.

WILLIAM HERSCHEL, LL.D. F.R.S.

THIS country has the faireſt right to enroll the ſubject of the preſent article in the number of her ornaments, as his extraordinary abilities have been brought into action, ſtrengthened, and properly directed, under the auſpices of the Britiſh ſovereign.

Dr. William Herſchel is a native of Hanover, and was born November 15, 1738. He was the ſecond of four ſons, all of whom were brought up to their father's profeſſion, which was that of a muſician. In addition to theſe, Mr. Herſchel, ſenior, had two daughters; and therefore, being burden-

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ed with ſo large a family, and in a poor country too, it is not at all a matter of wonder that the education which he beſtowed on his children was but ſcanty. Finding, however, in William a lively and inquiſitive genius, beyond what appeared in the other ſons, he gave him the advantage of a French maſter, under whom he made a rapid progreſs in the attainment of that language. Luckily, the tutor had a metaphyſical head, and ſo fond was he of his favourite ſtudy, as well as thoſe branches of ſcience which are connected with it, that he was deſirous of making his pupil alſo acquainted therewith. From this worthy man young Herſchel gained a tolerable knowledge of logic, ethics, and metaphyſics; and his attainments therein excited in his mind a ſtrong and inſatiable thirſt for learning, with the commendable reſolution of exerting himſelf to the utmoſt to improve his ſtock of intellectual treaſures. Theſe, indeed, were all his inheritance, except a muſical inſtrument, and ſome manuſcript muſic.

With this ſtore, unpromiſing as it was, our adventurer bade adieu to his native country while the flames of war were ſpreading around it, and arrived in London in the year 1759, whither, it is ſaid, his father and himſelf accompanied ſome Hanoverian troops, as part of their military band of muſic. With theſe the old man returned, leaving the young one behind to try his fortune in England.

Here, he was loſt in the crowd of candidates for employment,

employment, and we may well ſuppoſe that his ſituation in a ſtrange country, without friends, and in but indifferent circumſtances, muſt have been both painful and irkſome. Mr. Herſchel had not only a ſteady but a virtuous mind. Hereby he was enabled to bear up with fortitude againſt diſappointments, and to perſevere with alacrity in improving himſelf in an occupation, which hardly ſeemed to promiſe him a comfortable ſubſiſtence.

Finding but little proſpect of ſucceeding to his wiſh in the metropolis, he prudently reſolved upon going into the country; where muſical profeſſors being few, the chance of ſucceſs muſt be the greater. After viſiting different places in the north of England, his good fortune brought him to Halifax, where an organiſt being wanted, his merits were tried, and he procured the appointment. Here he alſo taught muſic with approbation and profit. The love of learning however ſtill prevailed, and at this place he devoted his ſpare hours to the ſtudy of the languages, beginning with the Italian, on account of its intimate connection with his profeſſion. From the Italian he proceeded to the Latin, in which he made an eminent progreſs. He then attempted the Greek, but after a little application he abandoned the ſtudy of this language, conſidering it as too dry and abſtracted for his purpoſe.

In theſe purſuits Mr. Herſchel was entirely ſelf-taught; and he holds out, in conſequence, an excellent

cellent and pertinent example to thoſe young perſons whoſe education has been circumſcribed within common limits, through the penury or narrow-mindedneſs of their friends.

A determined heart, and perſevering application, we ſee, from this inſtance, will overcome obſtacles that are apparently inſurmountable.

But it was not to the dead and living languages only that Mr. Herſchel bent his ardent and reſolute mind. He attempted to gain a knowledge of the moſt abſtruſe ſciences. His firſt effort was to make himſelf maſter of the *theory of harmonies*; and it is obſervable, that the book which he made choice of for this purpoſe, was no other than the profound and intricate treatiſe of the learned Dr. Smith upon that ſubject. He got through this work, however, without any aſſiſtance; and ſo great was the pleaſure which he derived from it, that he reſolved upon ſtudying the other branches of mathematical learning. He began with algebra, which he ſoon maſtered; thence he proceeded to Euclid, and ſo on to fluxions. The groundwork being thus laid, the ſtudy of the other ſciences became eaſy.

His ſituation at Halifax was favourable to his grammatical and mathematical purſuits; and it is well that he thus laid in a thorough ſtock of ſound knowledge, in what may be called his retirement. In 1766 he exchanged this place for one of a very different deſcription, being elected organiſt to the Octagon chapel at Bath. Here he entered at once

upon

upon a great round of profeſſional buſineſs, performing at the rooms, theatre, oratorios, and public and private concerts, beſides having a number of pupils. In ſuch a hurry of employment, and in the immediate circle of luxury and amuſement, very few men of Mr. Herſchel's profeſſion and age would have found time to purſue ſtudies ſeemingly ſo unprofitable and unintereſting as mathematics.

So far, however, from relaxing in his ſcientific ſtudies, he purſued them with increaſing ardour, and after a day of hard labour, he commonly retired at night to his mathematical books, and ſpent many hours in an unwearied attention to the moſt abſtruſe queſtions in geometry and fluxions.

In the Ladies' Diary, for 1780, appeared an elegant and profound anſwer by him to a very difficult prize-queſtion, reſpecting the vibrations of a muſical chord loaded in the middle with a ſmall weight.

About this time his ſtudies were chiefly directed to optics and aſtronomy. The pleaſure which he had experienced from viewing the heavens through a two-feet Gregorian teleſcope, he had borrowed at Bath, made him deſirous of poſſeſſing a complete ſet of aſtronomical inſtruments. His firſt object was to get a larger teleſcope, and being ignorant of the price at which ſuch inſtruments are uſually charged, he deſired a friend in London to buy one for him. This gentleman, ſurpriſed at the ſum demanded for the teleſcope, declined purchaſing it till he had informed Mr. Herſchel of the circum-

ſtance

ſtance. Our aſtronomer's aſtoniſhment was equal to that of his friend's; but inſtead of dropping his purſuit, he formed what many would have regarded as a moſt romantic reſolution, that of making a teleſcope for himſelf. He did not content himſelf with a ſpeculative idea, but from the ſcanty inſtructions he could gather out of optical treatiſes, actually ſet about this arduous undertaking. Diſappointment ſucceeded diſappointment; but all this only ſerved to act as a ſtimulus to his ardent mind, and at length his perſeverance was crowned with ſuch ſucceſs, that, in 1774, he enjoyed the exquiſite ſatisfaction of beholding the heavens through a five-feet Newtonian reflector of his own workmanſhip. Our modern Galileo did not reſt at this attainment, great as it was, but, with a laudable ambition, ſet about making inſtruments of a greater magnitude than had hitherto been known. After conſtructing thoſe of ſeven, and even ten feet, he thought of forming one not leſs than double the latter ſize. So great was his patience, ſo determined his perſeverance, that in perfecting the parabolical figure of a ſeven-feet teleſcope, he did not make leſs than two hundred ſpecula before he obtained one that would bear any power that was applied to it.

While he was thus laborioufly employed in his mathematical purſuits, he did not neglect the immediate duties of his profeſſion. Yet ſo much did his new occupation engage his mind, that he has frequently ſtolen from the theatre or the concert-

room, to look at the ſtars, and then return again in time to bear his part among the muſical performers. This conſtancy to Urania was at length moſt bountifully rewarded, by the diſcovery of a new planet in our ſyſtem, to which he gave the name of *Georgium Sidus*; and which foreign aſtronomers at firſt termed *Herſchel*, but more lately, and generally, that planet has been called Urania.

This important diſcovery was made in the night of the 13th of March, 1781. It was by no means a mere accidental circumſtance which favoured our aſtronomer with the view of this planet; but the reſult of a regular, patient, and ſcientific chain of obſervations. When he firſt ſaw it, he was not quite certain that it belonged to our ſyſtem, as a planet, but rather as a comet; however, a cloſer enquiry enabled him to aſcertain, with exactneſs, its planetary diſk, as well as its motion.

This diſcovery was communicated in the courſe of the ſame year to the Royal Society; and in conſequence of it, Mr. Herſchel was unanimouſly elected a member, and had the annual gold medal beſtowed upon him for his ſervice to the intereſts of ſcience.

The year following his Majeſty took him under his immediate protection. On this he quitted Bath and his muſical inſtruments, and went to live at Slough, near Windſor, at a houſe appointed for him by his royal patron, who conſtituted him his own private aſtronomical obſerver, with a handſome penſion.

Here

Here he was enabled to carry on his projects with vigour, and thoſe which had hitherto failed of ſucceſs were now brought to perfection. While at Bath, he had formed the bold ſcheme of conſtructing a teleſcope of thirty feet, and actually made ſeveral trials to carry his object into effect. But though he failed there, ſince his reſidence in the neighbourhood of Windſor he has far exceeded this deſign, and completed an inſtrument of no leſs than forty! The irregularities in the ſpeculum, and the impoſſibility of rendering the parts of ſo enormous an inſtrument as this mathematically exact, have hitherto prevented his being able to make any actual obſervations with it. It is a vulgar error, that the diſcoveries of Dr. Herſchel have been occaſioned by the enormous magnifying power of his teleſcope; the fact is, that no ſuch large power is neceſſary, or uſeful; and that all Dr. Herſchel's diſcoveries have been made with reflectors of from ten to twenty feet, and with powers of from ſixty to three hundred. His diſcoveries are to be aſcribed to his laudable perſeverance, and not to the ſize of his grand teleſcope, which is rather an object of curioſity than of utility.

In 1783 he diſcovered a volcanic mountain in the moon, and in 1787 made further obſervations upon that planet, and found two others therein, which emitted fire from their ſummits. In proſecuting his enquiries reſpecting his own planet (if we may be allowed ſo to expreſs ourſelves), he

has discovered it to be surrounded with rings, and to have six satellites.

In consequence of these important additions to the stock of national knowledge, our astronomer had the honour of receiving, from the university of Oxford, the degree of a Doctor of Laws; which is the more creditable, as that learned body is very sparing of its academic honours to persons who have not been educated within its walls.

Dr. Herschel has been a regular contributor to the Philosophical Transactions ever since his first communication in 1781, respecting his discovery of the new planet. Some of his papers are extremely curious; and he has hazarded a few bold conjectures respecting the sun, and other planetary bodies, which would hardly have been received from a less accurate observer.

In his astronomical pursuits the doctor is materially assisted by his sister, Miss Caroline Herschel, who has distinguished herself greatly by her application to this sublime study, and has communicated to the Royal Society some very ingenious reports of observations made by her upon the starry orbs.

Dr. Herschel is a man of unassuming manners; a free, communicative, and pleasant companion; and he enjoys that vigour of constitution which is so essential to an astronomical observer in a climate like that of England. It may be hoped, that his name will endure as long as the planetary system, to illustrate which he has devoted his life.

SIR

SIR NASH GROSE,

IS a native of London, and ſon of Edward Groſe, Eſq. Being deſigned for the bar, he was admitted of Lincoln's Inn, in Trinity term, 1756. In a ſhort time he diſcovered very reſpectable profeſſional abilities, and eſtabliſhed a character which ſoon procured him an extenſive ſhare of buſineſs.

After about eight years' practice as a barriſter, he was called to the degree of ſergeant, and being conſidered as a ſound lawyer, on the deceaſe of that moſt reſpectable man, the late patriotic Sergeant Glynn, he took the lead in the court of Common Pleas. Mr. Groſe had the happineſs of uniting what very few attain, the talent of a ſpecial pleader with a conſiderable portion of eloquence.

In 1787, without the intervention of great friends, powerful alliances, or parliamentary intereſt, he was raiſed to a ſeat in the court of King's Bench, of which he is now the third judge: and ſoon after this promotion his majeſty conferred the honour of knighthood upon him.

In his judicial capacity, he has conducted himſelf ſo as to avoid reflection or reproach; and this, in the preſent times, evinces no ſmall degree of integrity. Being entirely unconnected with political parties, he cannot reaſonably hope to ſucceed to the Chief Juſticeſhip of either of the courts, and,

therefore, has no other object in view, but to diſpenſe juſtice with credit to himſelf and advantage to the public; for he is now arrived at what to him may be looked on as the *ne plus ultra* of his profeſſion.

P.

MR. KEMBLE,

IS brother to the celebrated actreſs, Mrs. Siddons, and the eldeſt ſon of Mr. Roger Kemble, who was many years manager of an itinerant company of comedians.

When a boy, Mr. K. uſed to appear on his father's ſtage in ſuch characters as ſuited his age, but was not by him deſigned for a theatrical life. The Kemble family are catholic, and the old gentleman placed his ſon John at a Roman catholic academy in Staffordſhire; whence he was ſent to the Engliſh college at Douay, in order to be qualified for the church.

While there, he was equally noted for the ſtrength of his memory, and admired for his happy mode of delivery.

But being, at length, tired of the college trammels, he forſook his ſtudies, and returned to England, before the age of twenty, without the conſent of his family. Having landed at Briſtol, he walked to Glouceſter, where hearing that the company

company was at Brecknock, he proceeded thither, but met with a cool reception; his father, indeed, actually refuſed to relieve him; but the actors generouſly aſſiſted him with money, by way of ſubſcription, to which the manager, according to a report, which we truſt is unfounded, was with difficulty perſuaded to add a guinea!

On this, he returned to Glouceſterſhire with his pittance, and joined Chamberlin's company, with which he made his firſt eſſay on the ſtage of a ſmall town in that county. His profits were ſcanty, and his diſtreſs great, which at times involved him in rather ludicrous ſituations, ſome of which he will relate with much good humour among his convivial companions.

Kemble's chief fault ſeemed to be an unaccountable negligence, but he was ſtill looked on as a riſing actor. In hopes of procuring more profit and reputation than his preſent ſituation afforded him, he joined with the manager of Cheltenham theatre, in order to give a miſcellaneous entertainment. Young Kemble was to lecture, and his partner to entertain the company with *ſlight of-hand tricks!* The one obtained great credit by his eloquence, but neither of them gained much money; and we have only to lament, that ſuch men ſhould have been reduced ſo low by the frowns of the fickle goddeſs.

After this, our theatrical hero joined a company at Worceſter, where he remained until his ſiſter introduced him to Mr. Younger; from which

time he gradually improved, until he obtained a high degree of eminence in his profeſſion.

About this period he produced "Belliſarius," a tragedy, and a poem called "The Palace of Mercy."

From Younger's company he was introduced to that of Mr. Wilkinſon, at York *; who, being appointed manager at Edinburgh, took him along with him; there he was well received, and delivered a *lecture on oratory*, which gained him reputation as a man of letters.

Mr. Kemble played in Dublin in 1782, at Smock-alley theatre, and ſucceeded admirably, in Jephſon's "Count of Narbonne;" but his merit was not ſufficiently prized. His ſiſter ſoon after procured him an engagement at Drury-lane theatre.

His firſt appearance in the metropolis was in Hamlet, and but few firſt appearances in London have given greater ſatisfaction. His ſolemn demeanor and ſtyle of acting are admirably ſuited to the character. He has often repeated it, but always in an improved ſtate; and his Hamlet is now, perhaps, as finiſhed a portrait as any on the ſtage. Since that period he has performed a great variety of characters, always reſpectably, and ſometimes with acknowledged excellence. His

* The audience of that city being accuſtomed to the rant of a favourite provincial actor, did not reliſh him, "becauſe he could not *ſhout* like Cummins!"

Corio-

Coriolanus, Macbeth, Octavian, &c. are conſidered as the *ne plus ultra* of the imitative art.

His perſon, action, and deportment, joined to a diſtinct and claſſical utterance, fit him particularly for a tragedian. The pathetic complaints of Jaffier are, however, delivered with torpor, nor is his voice equal to the burſts of rage in Richard, or Macbeth. In the lover he is alſo defective; but in the deſpair of Beverly, the jealouſy of Othello, and the inquietude of royal John, he is peculiarly ſucceſsful. His great fault is the always aiming at being original, in which he frequently fails; but yet in theſe attempts he ſometimes ſtrikes out new beauties. On the whole, he is one of the firſt performers of the preſent day*.

Mr. Kemble has produced a farce called the "Projects," and has altered Bickerſtaff's comedy of "'Tis Well it's no Worſe", into a farce called the "Pannel," as well as Louvet's "Lodoiſka;" he has alſo fitted the old play of "Love in many Maſks" for the modern ſtage.

On Mr. King's quitting the management of Drury lane, Mr. Kemble was appointed his ſucceſſor; but it is certain the houſe, under his control, was not very ſucceſsful: this, however, may be attributed partly to want of taſte in the town, and partly to want of countenance in a certain quarter;

* It is not generally underſtood, that Mr. K. has ever played a ſinging part; he, however, performed *Richard Cœur de Lion* upwards of twenty nights. It was with ſome difficulty the leader of the band could get him to *keep time*.

for

for he aſſuredly poſſeſſes the talents requiſite to judge of new pieces, and a ſufficient knowledge of the ſtage to get up ſuch as are old in the beſt manner.

Mr. Kemble married the widow of the late Mr. Brereton. It is ſaid that the daughter of a deceaſed miniſter of ſtate was ſtrongly attached to him, which coming to the father's ears, he prudently offered a fortune of 3000*l.* on condition he would marry, immediately, any lady he liked. He accordingly caſt his eyes on Mrs. Brereton, and thus ſecured to himſelf a conſiderable acceſſion of fortune, and a moſt excellent wife.

MISS SEWARD.

THIS lady, ſo well known, and ſo much reſpected in the literary world, is the only daughter of the reverend Mr. Seward, rector of Eyam, in Derbyſhire: prebendary and canon-reſidentiary of Lichfield.

Being an author himſelf, he was fond of giving his daughter a taſte for letters, particularly poetry; and at the early age of three years ſhe could repeat the Allegro of Milton: and at nine ſhe recited the three firſt books of Paradiſe Loſt with ſpirit and propriety. About the ſame age ſhe converted ſeveral of the pſalms into Engliſh verſe.

But

But her mother not approving this turn for poetry, perſuaded her to relinquiſh her literary purſuits; ſhe ſtill, however, indulged now and then in her beloved occupation, and ſacrificed by ſtealth to the muſes.

A friend of the family happening to doubt whether the poems ſhewn as her's had not received ſome paternal aſſiſtance, he called one evening when he knew her father was abſent, and requeſted the young lady to favour him with a few lines on any ſubject, adding "Let me write a ſtanza, "and you finiſh it;" he accordingly indited one, and left her: on the ſucceeding morning ſhe preſented him with ſome verſes, which convinced him of her merit, and his own injuſtice.

On the death of an only and beloved ſiſter, which happened a few years after, ſhe wrote an Elegy as ſhe was ſitting in the garden. Other poems flowed rapidly from her pen; and becoming acquainted with the late Lady Miller, of Bath-Eaſton, ſhe was a frequent and ſucceſsful candidate for the prize beſtowed at that villa.

Her firſt regular publication was a beautiful Elegy on the death of Captain Cook, which, with an "Ode to the Sun" (a Bath-Eaſton prize poem), was publiſhed in quarto (1780). In the courſe of the next year, ſhe compoſed a "Monody" on her friend Major Andrè. Theſe two productions induced Dr. Darwin to ſay, that ſhe was the inventreſs of "epic elegy." Since that period, ſhe has written "A Poem to the Memory of Lady Miller;"

"Louiſa"

"Louiſa," a poetical novel; an Ode on "General Elliot's return from Gibralter;" and "Llangollen Vale."

Miſs Seward has alſo diſtinguiſhed herſelf as a tranſlator, for ſhe has clothed one of the moſt elegant of the Latin poets in an Engliſh dreſs, having preſented the public with a new verſion of ſeveral of the Odes of Horace *. They have been thought ſomewhat too diffuſe, but are allowed to exhibit proofs of a claſſical taſte, and fine imagination.

EARL OF CLARE,

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND.

WHETHER we conſider the importance reſulting from official ſituation, or that which great activity, conſiderable talents, and indefatigable zeal, always attach to their poſſeſſor, this nobleman is certainly the firſt man in the Iriſh adminiſtration. Whatever may be the fate of that unhappy country, ſo far as that fate is influenced by the preſent conteſt, it may be fairly attributed to his wiſdom or his weakneſs, to his firmneſs or his folly.

* We have been informed, ſince the publication of the firſt edition, that this lady is unacquainted with Latin, and therefore incapable of tranſlating from that language; if ſo, the work mentioned above, ought to be termed a *paraphraſe*.

Lord

Lord Clare, although now occupying the higheſt law-office in Ireland, and poſſeſſing almoſt unlimited influence in its councils, cannot boaſt a long line of noble anceſtors.

He is removed but two degrees from a man in the humbleſt walk of ſociety—a *catholic* peaſant—whoſe life was diſtinguiſhed only by a gradual tranſition from extreme poverty to an honourable competency, and that too acquired by uſeful induſtry.

With the change produced in the circumſtances of the family, a change ſeems to have alſo taken place in its creed, for while yet a very young man, we find the late Mr. Fitzgibbon, his lordſhip's father, a ſtaunch and zealous proteſtant. It is ſaid, however, that he was originally deſtined to officiate at a popiſh altar, and that he had actually received the education deemed neceſſary to fit him for that ſtation. If this account be true, it is at leaſt certain that either the maturity of his judgment, or a change in his views, ſoon made him *recant his errors*; for he was yet in early life, when he was called to the Iriſh bar, to which catholics were then inadmiſſible, and at which he afterwards became a highly-eſteemed and ſucceſsful pleader.

During that period, the buſineſs of the courts was monopolized by a few eminent barriſters; but the talents and the induſtry of Mr. Fitzgibbon forced him forward in ſpite of envy, and in a few years he himſelf became one of thoſe who, in ſome reſpects, claimed all the honours and the emoluments

ments of the profeſſion. So ſucceſsful, indeed, was he, that, in the courſe of a life not uncommonly long, he is ſaid to have realiſed a fortune of nearly 8000 *l.* per annum.

Of this gentleman, Lord Clare was the only ſon. A profeſſion in which the father had been ſo ſucceſsful, was naturally choſen by him for a favourite child, who was to ſupport the future fortunes and honours of the family. He was accordingly entered, at an early age, a ſtudent of the univerſity of Dublin, where he was contemporary with ſome of the moſt celebrated men who have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in all the recent and important tranſactions that have occurred in Ireland; ſuch as the late Mr. Flood, Mr. Grattan, Mr. Foſter, the preſent ſpeaker of the Iriſh Commons, &c. He is yet remembered by ſome of the old members of that ſeminary, on account of the ability and induſtry which even then marked his character.

Having completed his courſe of collegiate ſtudies, and kept his terms at the Temple, he was at length called to the Iriſh bar, with advantages poſſeſſed by few at the outſet of life, and theſe were ſupported by a high character, and a fortune which, even independent of any encreaſe from the ſucceſs of forenſic labours, ſecured to him ſomething infinitely beyond a competence. Affluence, however, did not produce in Mr. Fitzgibbon what is too commonly its effect on the youthful mind—an indolent apathy. His aſſiduity in profeſſional purſuits was not exceeded by any of his rivals at the bar;

bar; and though there was no man who drank more deeply of the cup of pleaſure, yet few toiled through more buſineſs, or in the diſcharge of it diſplayed more of that accuracy of knowledge which is the reſult only of attentive induſtry.

It was by the obſervance of a rule of life which none but ſtrong minds have ever preſcribed to themſelves, namely, "to ſuffer no portion of time to paſs without filling it either with buſineſs or with pleaſure," that Mr. F. was enabled to unite thoſe generally incompatible purſuits. With ſuch application, and with talents certainly above the common level, though, perhaps, far below that at which his friends would place them, he ſoon roſe to eminence.

In the Houſe of Commons, of which he became a member for the Univerſity, in 1776, ſhortly after his call to the bar; by the operation of this principle, aided by a kind of eloquence, which, though it was neither very brilliant, nor very perſuaſive, yet being accompanied by a certain air of confident ſuperiority, a conſiderable effect was produced; and he was ſoon eſteemed one of the moſt efficient ſupporters of the party he eſpouſed.

Without affecting popularity at any time, he launched into political life, uninvited, and unbought, the partiſan of the court, and the profeſſed contemner of the *profanum vulgus*: in this ſentiment he has been wonderfully conſiſtent. From his firſt entrance he has not, in one ſingle inſtance, ſtarted from the track before him. His conduct has been marked by an unvaried and uniform

uniform ſupport of the Britiſh cabinet, and an avowed, perhaps a revolting contempt, for the principles, motives, and objects, of what has been called the popular party.

He had not been long in parliment, before the calamities brought upon Ireland by the continuance of the American conteſt, rendered it neceſſary to ſeek, in an enlargement of her commerce, for ſome remedy againſt a general bankruptcy. The Commons, urged by the cries of a famiſhing people, called for what was then denominated "a "free trade," and Mr. F. much to his honour, *did not oppoſe* the application. The defenceleſs ſtate in which the kingdom had been left, by drawing off the troops to ſerve on a diſtant continent, ſuggeſted to the community the neceſſity of arming for ſelf-defence. Mr. F. appeared in the ranks as a private; but it would be unjuſt to charge him with participating in thoſe high-flown ſentiments of national pride, and love of freedom, which ſoon began to actuate the volunteer army, and which, no doubt, gave *ſome* ſtrength to the ſubſequent declaration of legiſlative independence by the Iriſh parliament. He rather ſeemed to be carried forward by the irreſiſtible impulſe of national ſentiment, than to have advanced with it toward the goal. Accordingly, when an occaſion occurred of retiring without diſhonour from a cauſe ſo little congenial to his principles, he ſeparated from the vulgar herd. The moment choſen by him was during the diſcuſſion of the long-agitated queſtion,

relative

relative to the SIMPLE REPEAL of the ſixth of GEO. III. From that time to the preſent he has continued the zealous advocate for a ſtrong and energetic government, and the powerful opponent of every man who attempted to reform, or innovate on preſent eſtabliſhments.

When Mr. Yelverton was appointed Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Ireland, Mr. Fitzgibbon ſucceeded him as Attorney-general. No man was ever better fitted for the office. His firmneſs, his confidence in his own powers, and the bold tone with which he hurled defiance at his parliamentary opponents, on every queſtion connected with legal or conſtitutional knowledge, often appalled the minor members of oppoſition, and ſometimes kept even their chiefs at bay. Theſe qualities, however, did not always conſtitute a ſure defence. The repulſe which on one memorable evening of debate he experienced on the part of the preſent LORD, then Mr. O'Neil, of Shane's Caſtle, whoſe manly and honeſt mind caught fire at the haughty and dictatorial language with which the attorney-general had dared to addreſs him, is remembered by thoſe who were then converſant in the politics of the day, and probably will not ſoon be forgotten.

But though this daring, and, as it is often called, overbearing ſpirit, did ſometimes miſcarry, in general it enſured him ſucceſs. A remarkable inſtance of its efficacy occurred at a time when the minds of the people were extremely agitated by the rejecting of their petitions for reform, and for

protecting duties. At a moment when the ferment ſeemed to have ariſen to a very dangerous height, an aggregate meeting of *all the inhabitants* of the metropolis was, on a requiſition of ſeveral reſpectable perſons, convened by the high ſheriffs of Dublin. The attorney-general was then the moſt unpopular man in the country; and the mob had, for ſome time, been in the habits of offering perſonal inſult to thoſe whom they ſuſpected of being adverſe to their wiſhes. Unawed, however, by theſe circumſtances, Mr. F. attended only by one or two friends, made his way through the crowd, reached the huſtings, interrupted a popular orator in the midſt of his harangue, told the ſheriffs that they had acted illegally in calling the meeting, commanded them to leave the chair, and threatened them with an information *ex officio** if they preſumed to continue in it. He then left the aſtoniſhed aſſembly, amidſt the hiſſes of the mob; and the ſheriffs inſtantly diſſolved the meeting.

Hitherto Mr. F. had acted with an adminiſtration which poſſeſſed both the power and will to reward his exertions. When the event of the king's illneſs, in 1789, unhinged the Iriſh government, he ſtood in different circumſtances. On that occaſion, a majority of the parliament, among whom were many of the oldeſt ſervants of the crown, declared for the right of Ireland, as an independent country, to chooſe its own regent. The Britiſh cabinet

* A proſecution without the intervention of a Grand Jury, revived by him.

controverted

controverted that right, and inſiſted that the regent choſen by the Britiſh Parliament ſhould be the regent for both countries. Mr. F. though no longer ſupported by a majority, remained firm to his Engliſh friends, and reſiſted, with his wonted boldneſs, not only the voice of the people, but what was of more immediate concern, a vaſt parliamentary majority. The unexpected recovery of his Majeſty, to Mr. F. certainly an happy event, rewarded his ſuperior good fortune, or his greater foreſight; for on Lord Lifford's death, he was created a baron, and appointed Chancellor: it is alſo not a little memorable, that he is the firſt Iriſhman who has filled that important office!

So far as reſpects juſtice, the country has had no reaſon to lament his appointment, for his activity and diſpatch have made chancery-ſuits almoſt ceaſe to be an inheritance. He has baniſhed chicane and unneceſſary delay from his court; and though his decrees may ſometimes be blamed as premature, the paucity of appeals ſeems to augur, that all complaint on this ſcore is groundleſs.

Since his elevation to the bench and the peerage, he has had repeated opportunities of diſplaying his former ſpirit, and expreſſing, with even more effect than before, his deteſtation of popular claims, and particularly that of a reform. He has ſhewn an equal abhorrence of the catholic pretentions to ſhare in the privileges of the conſtitution. Of their claim to the repreſentative franchiſe, it is known that he was the decided enemy; and though by

the paternal regard of his majeſty, and the prudence of the Britiſh cabinet, the conceſſion of that privilege was recommended to the Iriſh legiſlature, and adopted in conſequence of that recommendation, yet *his* opinion remained unchanged. With reſpect to ſubſequent claims, the Britiſh miniſtry have paid more attention to his advice.

His Lordſhip who has been lately in London, was reported to have left the ſeals in commiſſion, in order to complete a plan which at one time would have been viewed with diſlike by both countries. But ſuch is now the miſerable ſtate of his native land, that any change would appear to be for the better; and if an UNION were attended with nothing elſe than a ceſſation of carnage, every good man muſt rejoice at the proſpect of it.

The Iriſh themſelves, who ſurely may be allowed to be competent judges of a matter that ſo nearly intereſts themſelves, are, however, at preſent of a different opinion, and the part acted by his lordſhip, on this occaſion, ſeems calculated to render him more unpopular than ever.

RICHARD CUMBERLAND, ESQ.

IS the ſon of Dr. Deniſon Cumberland, late Biſhop of Clonfert and Killaloe, in Ireland, and great grandſon of that learned Engliſh divine, Dr. Richard Cumberland, Biſhop of Peterborough,

author

author of a treatiſe on the Law of Nature, *Origines Gentium*, &c. By the mother's ſide he is grandſon of the celebrated critic Dr. Richard Bentley.

Mr. Cumberland was educated at Trinity college, Cambridge, where he took the degree of B.A. By the friendſhip of the late Lord Sackville, better known by the title of Lord George Germaine, he was introduced to the office of Trade and Plantations, where he ſucceeded the late Mr. Pownal as ſecretary, in which poſt he continued until the ſuppreſſion of that appointment by Mr. Burke's bill, when he retired on a penſion.

Mr. Cumberland, while a very young man, wrote ſome verſes on the birth of the Prince of Wales. His firſt publication was the "Baniſhment of Cicero," which was refuſed by Mr. Garrick, but appeared in print in 1761. This ſhould have been rather called a dramatic poem than a tragedy.

The "Summer's Tale," and the "Brothers," two comedies, were his next productions; but neither of theſe have added much to his reputation.

In 1771, he was reconciled to Garrick, with whom he had been on bad terms ever ſince the refuſal of his tragedy, and that gentleman brought out his "Weſt Indian" in a capital ſtyle. This piece has ſtamped Mr. Cumberland's character as an excellent writer for the ſtage, and it is certainly one of our moſt ſterling comedies.

He now began to be eſteemed one of the beſt dramatic writers of the age, and alſo one of the moſt prolific; for next year he produced the "Fa-

ſhionable Lover," which was well received; as was likewiſe, in 1774, his lively farce called the "Fate of Pandora, or a Trip to Newmarket." His "Choleric Man," which came forth in 1775, is ſaid to have ſome affinity to Sir Richard Steele's Tender Huſband: his "Battle of Haſtings," a tragedy, was rather unfortunate. In 1776, he publiſhed a thin quarto volume of Odes.

About the year 1780, he was ſent on national buſineſs to Madrid, but did not appear there in a public character. On his return, he publiſhed, in 1782, "Anecdotes of eminent Painters in Spain, during the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," two volumes, 12mo. Next year he brought out a tragedy on the ſtage, called the "Myſterious Huſband," and addreſſed a Letter to the Biſhop of Landaff reſpecting eccleſiaſtical grievances. It contained ſome wit, and was ably anſwered by an anonymous writer.

In 1785, he had much buſineſs on his hands: for he produced "The Carmelite," allowed to be the beſt tragedy he has written; and alſo a comedy, called the "Natural Son*." In the courſe of the ſame year, he publiſhed a character of his diſeaſed friend, Lord Viſcount Sackville, and the firſt edition of the Obſerver. Next year a ſecond edition appeared; and the ſubſequent

* Miſs PLUMPTRE has lately preſented to the public another "*Natural Son*," being a faithful and elegant tranſlation of KOTZEBUE's famous play of that title, and which has been ſo much admired on the Britiſh ſtage, under the altered title of *Lovers' Vows*.

editions

editions have now ſwelled the work to five volumes. Theſe eſſays abound with pleaſing and inſtructive information, and diſcover extenſive reading.

In 1787, Mr. Cumberland preſented the world with "An accurate deſcriptive Catalogue of the Paintings in the King of Spain's Palace at Madrid;" ſoon after this the comedy of the "Impoſtors," and a novel, in two volumes, called "Arundel," made their appearance. In the latter he is accuſed, but on very ſlight foundation, as ſeeming to palliate adultery and duelling.

After this, his talents ſeem to have lain fallow for ſome years, as he did not produce any thing until 1792, when he publiſhed his poem called "Calvary, or the Death of Chriſt." Next ſeaſon he wrote the ſongs and choruſſes in the comic opera of the "Armourer." In 1794, he produced the "Box-lobby Challenge," and alſo his deſervedly-eſteemed comedy of the "Jew," a play written with the laudable intention of removing the ſtigma which accompanies that unhappy and much-perſecuted people. His attempt of the next year conſiſted of the "Wheel of Fortune;" he alſo preſented the town with another comedy, called "Firſt Love," and another novel, in four volumes, named "Henry."

His muſe, which muſt be allowed to be a ſpirited one, ſeems to know no repoſe; for, in 1796, he produced "Days of Yore," a drama, in three acts; and the next year, "The Laſt of the

Family." His laſt piece is the comedy of "Falſe Impreſſions."

When we conſider the number, the merit, and the exquiſiteneſs of his writings, Mr. Cumberland muſt be allowed to rank high as a dramatic writer.

SIR ARCHIBALD MACDONALD.

SIR Archibald Macdonald is the third ſon * of Macdonald of Slate, in the iſles; his mother was of the houſe of Eglinton.

Mr. Macdonald was bred to the Engliſh bar, but had never any great practice. His buſineſs conſiſted chiefly in Scotch appeals. Yet if not highly ſucceſsful in his profeſſional career, he was at leaſt deſerving of ſucceſs; and his good fortune having at length introduced him to the acquaintance of the daughter of a noble Marquis, who conſented to their marriage, Mr. Macdonald, in conſequence of this connexion, beheld the higheſt honours of the law lie open to his view.

By the intereſt of his wife's family, he was accordingly appointed, in 1780, a king's counſel and a Welch judge; he had been before brought into parliament, for Hindon; and at the general election, which occurred during the year, he put on his ſilk gown; he was returned for Newcaſtle-

* He was a poſthumous child.

under-

under-line, a borough under the influence of his father-in-law the Marquis, then Lord Stafford.

In parliament, he, of courſe, followed the line of politics purſued by the family into which he was adopted: that is, he ſupported Lord North, until he began to totter; then, with the Gower intereſt, he went into Oppoſition, and was noticed for a ſevere attack he made on the Premier, with reſpect to the Dutch war. As a parliamentary ſpeaker, Mr. Macdonald was eaſy, fluent, intelligible, and conciſe.

Lord Stafford, on joining Mr. Pitt, procured for his ſon-in-law the place of Solicitor-general (1784), and in 1788, on the promotion of Sir Pepper Arden to be Maſter of the Rolls, he was knighted, and appointed Attorney-general in his room. It is no leſs remarkable than true, that the poſſeſſion of theſe two high offices in the law did not bring Sir Archibald any conſiderable addition of practice as a counſel, and the number of his proſecutions were thought to have greatly affected the liberty of the preſs.

However, after a few years longer ſtay at the bar, he was promoted to be Chief Baron of the Exchequer, having previouſly been called to the degree of Sergeant at Law. As a judge he has conducted himſelf with candour and impartiality.

In conſequence of his marriage with Lady Louiſa Gower, he has ſeveral children.

P.

MRS.

MRS. SIDDONS.

WHEN a woman paſſes through that thorny path of pleaſure the ſtage, without being drawn aſtray by the temptations which perpetually aſſail the fair traveller, our eſteem and veneration ought ever to await her. In this age, degenerate as it is, we have enjoyed the pleaſure of ſeeing many females ſupporting unſullied characters in theatrical life, and among them this lady certainly claims pre-eminence, from her ſplendid powers, joined to an unſpotted fame.

Miſs Kemble (for this was her maiden name,) was the eldeſt daughter of the manager of an itinerant company of comedians, and made her firſt eſſay as a ſinger, but ſoon abandoned that line, and attempted tragedy. Early in life ſhe conceived a paſſion for Mr. Siddons, in which not being indulged by her parents, ſhe quitted the ſtage, and hired herſelf as lady's maid in the family of Mrs. Greathead, of Guy's-cliff, near Warwick, where ſhe remained about a year; and then reſolving to unite herſelf with the man of her affections, ſhe was married to Mr. Siddons, and ſoon after joined a ſtrolling company, of no great reputation for talents.

Both ſhe and her huſband had, however, the good fortune to be at length engaged by Mr. Younger to perform at Liverpool, Birmingham, &c.; with

him

him ſhe remained a few years, and acquired both profit and reputation; the latter of which procured her an engagement at Drury-lane houſe, where ſhe performed ſuch parts as Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Epicene, in the Silent Woman; and the Queen, in Richard the Third. She was, however, conſidered merely as a ſecond-rate actreſs; and being unfortunately placed in an after-piece, written by the editor of a newſpaper, which had the ill luck to be damned, the ſcurrilous author left no opportunity of injuring her reputation; ſhe then quitted the London boards for a time, to return to them afterward with increaſed luſtre.

At Bath, whither ſhe now repaired, ſhe was obſerved to improve rapidly, and is ſaid to have been aſſiſted by the leſſons of Mr. Pratt, author of "Sympathy," &c. then a bookſeller in that city. There ſhe attracted the notice of the audience, and had the good fortune to be patronized by the Ducheſs of Devonſhire, who procured her another engagement at Drury-lane. Before ſhe quitted Bath, ſhe ſpoke a farewel addreſs, which ſhe herſelf had written, and which ſhe delivered with her uſual excellence.

She made her ſecond appearance at Drury-lane, on the 10th of October, 1782, in the character of "Iſabella," and aſtoniſhed the houſe with ſuch a diſplay of powers as they had ſeldom witneſſed before. Her fame was ſoon ſpread abroad, and the theatre overflowed every night; the taſte for tragedy returned; and the manager, whoſe farce of the "Critic" ſeems to have been expreſsly

written

written to drive Melpomene from the ſtage, received "golden favours" from her votaries. Far from proving ungrateful, he generouſly gave Mrs. Siddons an extra-benefit, and increaſed her ſalary. Her good ſucceſs was the means of introducing her ſiſter, Miſs F. Kemble, on the ſame ſtage; and ſhe performed "Jane Shore," while her near relative played "Alicia," on her firſt appearance. The latter, however, not altogether fulfilling the expectations of the public, honourably withdrew, in conſequence of a marriage with Mr. Twiſs, a literary gentleman, and a well-known traveller.

Mrs. Siddons's *extra*-benefit was given her before Chriſtmas; ſhe then appeared in "Belvidera," and gained freſh laurels, and an enormous receipt. The two counſellors, Pigot and Fielding were ſo highly delighted on this occaſion, that they collected a ſubſcription among the gentlemen of the bar, of one hundred guineas, and preſented them to her, accompanied with a polite letter, as a token of their eſteem. This was an honour which, we believe, has not been conferred on any actor or actreſs ſince the time when Booth gave ſuch general ſatisfaction in the character of Cato.

In the ſummer, this great and amiable actreſs went to Dublin, the inhabitants of which were equally aſtoniſhed at her powers. On her return for the winter (1783-4), ſhe performed, for the firſt time, "by command of their Majeſties." During the ſucceeding ſeaſon, ſhe took a ſecond trip to Ireland, and alſo viſited Edinburgh, in both

of

of which places, ſhe not only received great ſalaries, but very conſiderable preſents from unknown hands, particularly a ſilver urn which was ſent after her to London, on which were engraved theſe words, "*A reward to merit.*"

Envy and malice, as uſual, purſued merit; and to theſe alone we can attribute the attack made on her in a newſpaper, reſpecting her treatment of an unhappy ſiſter, &c. Theſe reports had, however, ſuch an effect on the town, that on her firſt appearance on the ſtage, in 1784, ſhe was ſaluted with the cry of "*off! off!*" Her friends at length obtained her a hearing; and her huſband and brother, by means of uncommon exertions, ſucceeded in refuting the calumnies to which ſhe had been expoſed. She was accordingly reſtored to public favour. Although ſhe had conducted herſelf during this conteſt with great compoſure, yet it made ſuch an impreſſion on her mind, that ſhe determined to retire to Wales with the few thouſands ſhe had then ſaved; but the perſuaſions of her friends, and a conſideration for the welfare of her family, made her alter this reſolution.

Their Majeſties about this time paid her much attention. Her talent in reciting dramatic works had been highly ſpoken of, which reaching the ears of the royal family, ſhe was frequently invited to Buckingham-houſe, and Windſor, where ſhe and her brother often read plays, *and it is to be hoped received ample remuneration for their trouble.*

As ſome relaxation, on account of her health, had

had now become neceſſary, ſhe quitted Drury-lane for a time, and performed at Weymouth, Plymouth, Liverpool, &c. with additional reputation. She alſo viſited ſeveral of her noble patrons, among whom Lord and Lady Harcourt ſtood conſpicuous. By means of theſe friends and accompliſhments ſhe has acquired a very good fortune, had formerly a conſiderable ſhare, now converted into a mortgage, on Drury-lane theatre, and is bleſſed with a family that promiſes to be her comfort in old age.

We lament exceedingly the recent death of her beautiful and accompliſhed daughter; and moſt ſincerely condole with a mother, whoſe exquiſite ſenſibility muſt have been agonized by ſo unhappy an event.

Nature has beſtowed on Mrs. Siddons a majeſtic perſon, a ſtriking countenance, and a fine voice; the judgment with which ſhe modulates the laſt of theſe, has never been excelled, perhaps never rivalled, by any other actreſs. The flexibility of her features, the expreſſion of her eyes, and the grace of her deportment, have ſeldom been equalled. She poſſeſſes that art of ſpeaking, for which the late Mrs. Yates was ſo juſtly famed, combined with the impaſſioned ſtyle of playing, of Mrs. Crauford, while in her meridian.

She has lately had an engagement with the Drury lane managers, at a certain ſum for each night's performance, by which means ſhe avoids injuring her health by the conſtant repetition of theatrical exertions.

Mrs.

Mrs. Siddons reſides in Great Marlborough-ſtreet, and is upwards of fifty years of age. In private life ſhe is regarded as an œconomiſt, but, at the ſame time, as a truly amiable and exemplary wife and mother.

P.

SIR JOHN SCOTT,

HIS MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

IT has been remarked, of late years, that in conſequence of the mode now in vogue, of beſtowing the favours of government, the bar is the only line in which a man can riſe by merit alone to the firſt honours of his profeſſion; but we believe even here ſome grains of allowance muſt be made; for the ſubject of our preſent enquiries would never have reached the ſtation he now occupies, without powerful patronage.

Sir John Scott is the ſon of a tradeſman * of no great opulence, at Newcaſtle-upon-Tyne. His elder brother, Sir William Scott, who was bred to the practice of the civil law, was formerly advocate-general, and is now judge of the Admiralty-court. John was admitted a ſtudent of the Middle Temple, in Hilary term, 1772, and after paying the moſt aſſiduous attention to his ſtudies, was called to the bar at the uſual period.

Our young barriſter is ſaid to have been troubled with what few gentlemen of the profeſſion have

* His father was, what is there termed, a *coal-fitter*.

occaſion

occaſion to complain of—a certain timidity of character, which made him ſhun the courts as a pleader for a conſiderable time, and employ himſelf chiefly in the buſineſs of a draughtſman in chancery, in which he was allowed to be able, and had great practice. He found, however, that this branch of the profeſſion was equally injurious to his health and advancement in life, and he at length determined to get the better of that ſpecies of torpor to which he was naturally inclined.

He accordingly betook himſelf to a more public and active line; and in a ſhort time evinced that he was apt and ingenious at reply.

Sir John was not long at the bar, before he attracted the notice of the late chancellor *; and as he always avoided oppoſition to the bench, received great countenance in his practice: it is even ſaid that the chancellor one day took him aſide, after the buſineſs of the court was over, complimented him on his merit, and offered him the place of one of the maſters in chancery, then vacant. This he politely declined; and he had the ſatisfaction to find that he acted right, as his buſineſs continued to increaſe rapidly.

About the year 1783, he obtained a patent of precedency, which entitled him to all the honours of a king's counſel, and freed him from certain diſadvantages attendant on that ſtation. He had juſt before been introduced into parliament, through

* Lord Thurlow.

the

the intereſt of Lord Weymouth, who ſeated him for the borough of Weobly. Mr. Scott was ſaid to have ſtruck a bargain with his right honourable patron, when he accepted this ſituation, which, if true, was much to his honour: viz. "that he would be at liberty to vote as he pleaſed." He might, however, have ſpared himſelf this trouble, for as ſoon as he got into the houſe, he acted decidedly with the Pitt party, and in the debate on Mr. Fox's India bill, placed himſelf in oppoſition to the late Mr. Lee, then attorney-general. Although in this attempt he did not acquire much importance as a parliamentary ſpeaker, yet he gained every thing he could wiſh for, by his connexion with thoſe whoſe cauſe he eſpouſed; for they took the firſt opportunity to promote him. Accordingly, in 1783, he was advanced to be Solicitor-general, in the room of Sir Archibald, then Mr. Macdonald, promoted to be attorney-general. When theſe two were preſented to the king, the attorney-general received the honour of knighthood. The officer in waiting was then ordered to bring up Mr. Scott, when the latter begged leave to decline; but the king, *who knows the real value* of theſe things better than any other man, perhaps, in his dominions, replied, "Pho, pho, nonſenſe! I will ſerve them both "alike." Thus Mr. Scott gained honours unaſked, and even againſt his will.

In the buſineſs of the regency, Sir John was ſaid to be the man whoſe legal talents formed the baſis of the miniſter's plan of conduct.

In 1793 he was made Attorney-general; and while in this poſt, he has proſecuted, perhaps, more men for libels, than ever fell to the lot of any two of his predeceſſors! It is during his time, too, that *ſecret impriſonment* has crept into practice.

The part he took during the ſtate trials at the Old Bailey will never be forgotten; for, after a wonderful diſplay of candour, he laboured through a ſpeech of nine hours to convict a man of a crime, while the length of his own oration alone was a ſtrong preſumptive proof of innocence.

He now ſtands as the moſt likely candidate for the ſeals; and ſhould any thing happen to remove the preſent Chancellor, during Mr. Pitt's continuance in power, he will, in all probability, ſucceed him.

DUKE OF NORFOLK.

CHARLES HOWARD, Eſq. of Grayſtock, in Cumberland, a collateral branch of that noble family, ſucceeded to the title of Norfolk, in 1777, on the death of Edward, the ninth duke; and his ſon, the preſent Duke, then aſſumed the appellation of Earl of Surrey.

In 1767, while Mr. Howard, he married a Miſs Mary-Ann Coppinger, of Ballyvolane, in Ireland, who died ſoon after, in childbed; and, in 1771, he received the hand of Miſs Frances Scudamore, daughter of C.F. Scudamore, Eſq. of Home-Lacey,

in

in Herefordſhire, by the repudiated Ducheſs of Beauford, with whom he got a large fortune; but by neither lady has he any children. This laſt, indeed, has been in a very melancholy ſtate of mind for many years, and lives retired at one of his Grace's ſeats. The Ducheſs is celebrated for the ſmart repulſe ſhe is ſaid to have given the amorous Duke of Queenſbury a few years ſince.

Some time previouſly to his acquiſion of the title, Lord Surrey had renounced the Romiſh church, in which he had been bred, and of courſe became eligible to ſit in either houſe of parliament. Accordingly, at the general election in 1780, he was returned for Carliſle, in oppoſition to the intereſt of Sir James Lowther. As ſoon as his lordſhip took his ſeat, he joined the party in oppoſition, and with it laboured to ſtem the torrent ariſing from the encreaſing influence of the crown, until the complete defeat of the miniſter, in 1782. It is well known that the North adminiſtration having clung faſt to their places, Lord Surrey gave notice in the Houſe of Commons of a motion which would effectually remove them; but the premier anticipated the diſgrace, by declaring "that he was no longer miniſter."

In the change which ſoon after took place, his lordſhip was appointed Lord-lieutenant of the weſt riding of the county of York, and under the coalition miniſtry he was nominated a lord of the treaſury.*

* His father poſſeſſed the office of hereditary earl marſhal of England, and Lord Surrey executed it for him as deputy.

When the Shelburne miniſtry came in, Lord Surrey oppoſed them, and joined the coalition; and when that party was driven from power, he ſtill eſpouſed their cauſe.

He now became a member of the ſociety for conſtitutional information, took an active part in the buſineſs of parliamentary reform, and attended public meetings when that queſtion was brought forward; on this account he has been charged with inconſiſtency, as he is known to be as deeply concerned in the *traffic in boroughs* as any nobleman of this age; but he has always ſolemnly aſſured his friends, that he is ready to ſacrifice every ſpecies of influence of that kind, and ſupport a meliorated ſyſtem, which he holds to be eſſentially neceſſary for the preſervation of the conſtitution.

On the death of his father he ſucceeded to his title and ſeat in the Houſe of Lords, and there, as before, has uniformly ſupported the popular cauſe*.

His friendſhip for Mr. Fox has ever been ſteady and invariable, and to this alone may be attributed his recent diſmiſſion. At a late annual meeting, to commemorate the return of his friend for the city of Weſtminſter, the Duke is ſaid to have given the old Whig toaſt of "Our Sovereign, the Majeſty of the People." In the memory of ſome of the youngeſt men now living, this has been repeatedly

* He is, we believe, the firſt earl-marſhal who has executed the office in perſon, all the family before him being Catholics.

drank

drank without offence; and why any exception ſhould at preſent be taken to it, remains to be explained. The fact, however, is, that the Duke of Norfolk was diſmiſſed from his lord-lieutenancy, and from the command of a regiment which he had trained with the utmoſt care, while he had alſo generouſly reſigned the emoluments derived from it, to increaſe the comforts of his favourite *corps*.

Report has whiſpered that his grace was greatly affected by theſe marks of royal diſpleaſure; but he ſurely could not be hurt by the loſs of nominal influence or diſtinction, although, it may readily be ſuppoſed, that to be torn from a ſet of men with whom he had lived in the habits of friendſhip for many years, would, undoubtedly, give him pain. But, if any thing could tend to produce additional chagrin, it muſt be to ſee a man with whom he had been in the habits of acting with cordiality for ſo many years, pluming himſelf in his ſpoils, and ſtooping to a miniſter whoſe conduct he had reprobated.

The duke, as a *bon vivant*, is ſurrounded by thoſe who are capable of keeping "the table in a roar," and his hoſpitalities at Homo-Lacey are in the firſt ſtyle of magnificence.

As an orator, he poſſeſſes an eaſy delivery, and evinces a maſculine underſtanding; but he never attempts any of thoſe rhetorical flouriſhes which captivate the ear, without laying hold of the underſtanding.

His grace has been known to perform many generous actions. He kept the place of Secretary

to the earl marſhal vacant for a conſiderable time after the death of poor Brooks, who loſt his life in the fatal accident at the Haymarket theatre, until, as he ſaid, he could find ſome one worthy to fill it, although earneſtly ſolicited by many for the appointment. Mr. Dallaway having publiſhed his ingenious book on the ſcience of heraldry, the Duke directly beſtowed the office on him, unaſked.

His father had about him when he died a great number of perſons of the catholic perſuaſion, who, on the loſs of their patron, concluded they would be diſmiſſed by his proteſtant ſucceſſor; but he generouſly directed that their ſtipends and allowances ſhould be paid them, as in the lifetime of the late Duke.

JOSEPH TOWERS, LL.D.

THIS gentleman has diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the annals of patriotiſm, in the republic of letters, and in the pulpit of the diſſenters: he was not, however, intended for a divine; Dr. Towers, like his great precurſor and friend, Dr. Franklin, having been originally bred a printer.

At a very early period of his life, from a ſincere conviction, obtained by *reading*—that great bane of all tyranny, civil and eccleſiaſtical!—he became firmly attached to the principles of liberty, both in reſpect to church and ſtate; and no man has been more

zealous

zealous in behalf of the freedom of his country, and of mankind. This favourite idea has, indeed, been always warmly cherished by the sectaries in general, and they must be allowed to have fanned the sacred flame, and kept it alive in the nation, during the most alarming and critical periods.

After his call to the ministry, Dr. T. was chosen pastor of the congregation of protestant dissenters at Highgate; this occurred in 1774; and in 1778 he was nominated morning-preacher to the dissenters at Newington-green. In the latter of these offices he succeeded the worthy, pious, and amiable Dr. Price, who had been appointed to the congregation at Hackney. He continued, however, to officiate at Newington-green, in the afternoon, for some years; and his colleague and himself seemed perfectly agreed relative to all the leading points in politics and religion.

On the 4th of November, 1788, being the completion of a century from the revolution, that event was celebrated with great solemnity; and the doctor, at the request of a committee, delivered what may be termed a *civic sermon* on the occasion, which was listened to with great attention, and printed afterwards at the request of the stewards.

While the Society for Constitutional Information flourished, the name of Dr. Joseph Towers stood conspicuous among the most active of its members. He had been ballotted for in 1782, and continued to act with it until 1794, when the books and papers were seized by order of government, and the secretary taken into custody. On the 13th of June,

of the ſame year, the doctor received an order to attend the Privy Council on the day following, which he accordingly obeyed; and was examined relative to the proceedings of a club which boaſted of the Dukes of Norfolk and Richmond, the Earls of Effingham and Derby, Sir William Jones, Mr. Sheridan, Drs. Price, Kippis and John Jebb, Mr. Erſkine, &c. &c. among its aſſociates. On this occaſion, Dr. T. although viſibly depreſſed by the yellow-jaundice, evinced great firmneſs, and was diſmiſſed without being obliged to give bail, at the deſire of a dignified clergyman then ſitting as a member of the board, and who is ſuppoſed to have been the preſent Archbiſhop of Canterbury.

On the eſtabliſhment of the ſociety called "The Friends of the People," he was alſo voted a member *.

The

* The ſociety was founded in the year 1792, under the name of "The Society of the Friends of the People, aſſociated for the purpoſe of obtaining a Parliamentary Reform."

This inſtitution is ſuppoſed to have excited conſiderable alarm in the adminiſtration; for, in the advertiſement notifying its exiſtence, a liſt was publiſhed of the firſt hundred aſſociators among which were no leſs than forty members of parliament, viz. the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr. Grey, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Francis, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Erſkine, Mr. Sheridan, &c. &c.

This ſociety publiſhed a very accurate account of the ſtate of the repreſentation of England and Wales, the ſubſtance of which was afterwards formed into a petition, and preſented to the Houſe of Commons by Mr. Grey, on the 6th of May, 1793. In this petition it was aſſerted, with what truth we pretend not to determine, that eighty-four individuals did, by their own immediate authority, ſend one hundred and fifty-ſeven members to parliament;

and

The life of this gentleman preſents few other memorable events, his literary labours excepted, which evince a ſeries of ſtudy and toil, ſeldom to be met with, even in thoſe who have dedicated their whole time to letters alone.

His principal works are the following:

1. In 1763, A Review of the genuine Doctrines of Chriſtianity, &c. 8vo. with the name annexed.

2. In 1764, an anonymous "Enquiry into the Queſtion, Whether Juries are, or are not, Judges of Law as well as of Fact; with a particular Reference to the Caſe of Libels." In this, Dr. Towers took the conſtitutional and affirmative ſide of the queſtion, not only in reſpect to libels, *but in all caſes whatever*; this doctrine was ably ſupported by the late Lord Camden ſo far as concerns the former, and has alſo received the ſanction of the legiſlature in a bill, but too little attended to by either judges or juries.

3. He is the author of the firſt ſeven volumes of "Britiſh Biography;" the firſt volume of which was publiſhed in 1766.

4. Between fifty and ſixty articles in the new edition of the Biogr. Britan. with the letter T. annexed.

5. In 1773, An Examination into Sir J. Dalrymple's ſcandalous Attack on the Memory of Sydney and Ruſſel.

6. In 1774, A Letter to Dr. Johnſon, occaſioned by his recent political Publications. See Boſwell's Life of Johnſon, vol. II. p. 201 and 202.

7. A Letter to the Earl of Shelburn, 1782.

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and that, beſides theſe, one hundred and fifty more, making in the whole three hundred and ſeven, were returned to that houſe, not by the collective voice of thoſe whom they appeared to repreſent, but by the recommendation of ſeventy powerful individuals: ſo that the total number of patrons was one hundred and fifty-four, who returned a decided majority. Theſe ſtatements the ſociety obſerved in their petition, which was entered on the journals, they were ready to prove at the bar.

8. Obſervations on the Rights and Duties of Juries in Trials or Libels, &c. 1784.

9. Dialogues concerning the Ladies, 1785.

10. In 1786, An Eſſay on the Life and Writings of Dr. Johnſon.

11. In 1788, Memoirs of the Life and Reign of Frederick III. King of Pruſſia. (A ſecond edition has been ſince publiſhed.)

12. Thoughts on the Commencement of a new Parliament, 1790.

13. A Dialogue, &c. reſpecting the Commencement of the War with France, 1793.

14. Addreſs to the Electors of Great Britain, 1796.

15. Thoughts on natural Inſanity, 1797.

16. Remarks on the Conduct, &c. of the Aſſociation at the Crown and Anchor, &c.

17. A Tranſlation, from the French, of two Diſcourſes delivered before the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, by the Baron de Hertzberg.

18. A Tranſlation, from the ſame Language, of an hiſtorical Memoir of the laſt Year of the Life of Frederick II. King of Pruſſia.

19 Obſervations on Mr. Hume's Hiſtory of England.

And, 20. An Oration delivered at the London Tavern, on the 4th of November, 1788, on Occaſion of the Commemoration of the Revolution, and the Completion of a Century from that great Event :—

After remarking that, great and intereſting events, involving the happineſs of nations, have always been celebrated by mankind, he recurs to the important epoch, which placed William III. on the throne of the Stewarts :

" Of this nature, and of this tendency," ſays he, " is the event which we are this day aſſembled to commemorate. It is an event, which muſt ever be regarded as one of the moſt important recorded in the Britiſh annals. It is an event, which, at the period when it happened, juſtly excited the attention of ſurround-

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ing nations. It is an event, which will ever reflect honour upon our anceſtors, and the remembrance of which ſhould, at all times, excite in their deſcendants an ardent zeal for the liberties of their country, and for the rights of human nature.

" That when all the efforts of regal tyranny were employed to overturn the liberties of England, they ſhould have been ſtill more fully eſtabliſhed at the REVOLUTION; that, in conſequence of that moſt important event, this country ſhould now have enjoyed an high degree of liberty, civil and religious, for an entire CENTURY,—is a juſt ſubject of national exultation, and of gratitude to the ſupreme Ruler of the Univerſe, from whoſe providential diſpenſations Great Britain has derived ſuch ſignal and ſuch invaluable bleſſings.

" It is among the higheſt honours of this country, that its inhabitants have been diſtinguiſhed, in almoſt every period of their hiſtory, by their firm, manly, and intrepid oppoſition to the encroachments of tyranny. On a variety of occaſions have our anceſtors nobly aſſerted their rights as men, and as citizens. In the ſenate, and in the field, they have repelled the attacks of tyrants, and maintained the honour, the dignity, and the liberties, of their country. Many efforts have been made by the poſſeſſors of power to overturn theſe liberties; and, at the period previous to the Revolution, ſuch was the deſpotiſm of the meaſures adopted by the then reigning prince, that, if they had been tamely ſubmitted to by the people, the liberties of England would have had no longer an exiſtence."

It is thus that he mentions the wrongs that led to, and the patriots who diſtinguiſhed themſelves during that and a former period.

" To enter into a particular enumeration of the facts that preceded, and that attended the Revolution, would take up more time than would be ſuitable to the nature of ſuch a meeting as the preſent. I ſhall, therefore, here only obſerve, that when the illegal, the unconſtitutional, and the tyrannical adminiſtration of king James the Second, had rendered it neceſſary that all who had

had any attachment to the liberties of their country, or to the Proteſtant religion, ſhould make a firm and united ſtand againſt him; when he aſſumed a power of ſuſpending the laws, and of trampling on the conſtitution;—an illuſtrious band of patriots roſe, who projected the REVOLUTION, and who adopted thoſe meaſures that at length brought it to a glorious completion. Among the principal Promoters of the Revolution, we may particularly enumerate the Earls of Devonſhire, Shrewſbury, and Danby, Lord Delamer (1), Lord Lumley, Admiral Herbert, Admiral Ruſſel, Henry Compton, Biſhop of London, and Henry Sydney, brother to the illuſtrious Algernon.

"Of characters of this kind our country has happily produced too many to be now diſtinctly enumerated: but it cannot be improper on this occaſion to mention the names of JOHN HAMPDEN, who oppoſed the unjuſt claims of regal tyranny in the famous caſe of Ship-money, and who nobly fell in the cauſe of his country in Chalgrove-field; of the virtuous, the amiable, the patriotic Lord RUSSEL; of the high-ſpirited and illuſtrious ALGERNON SYDNEY, whoſe admirable writings in the cauſe of freedom brought him to the ſcaffold; and of JOHN LOCKE, who has explained the true nature of civil government, and eſtabliſhed the rights of men on the moſt unqueſtionable principles. And among the diſtinguiſhed votaries of liberty in this country, our great and illuſtrious bard, the ſublime MILTON, ſhould not be forgotten. Even the ſplendour of his genius has not ſecured him from the

(1) Henry Booth, Lord Delamer, afterwards created Earl of Warrington, was a nobleman of amiable and irreproachable character, who is ſaid to have been one of the original projectors of the Revolution, and who was one of the firſt that appeared in arms in its ſupport, after the landing of the prince of Orange. But he was not perfectly ſatisfied with the manner in which ſome points were adjuſted at the Revolution. He appears to have wiſhed for more retrenchments of the regal prerogative, and to have thought, that the liberty of the ſubject was not ſufficiently ſecured and aſcertained even under the new ſettlement. Mr. Granger ſays of him, in his Biographical Hiſtory of England, that "he was a man of a generous "and noble nature, which diſdained, upon any terms, to ſubmit to ſervitude; "and whoſe paſſions ſeemed to centre in the love of civil and religious liberty." In Lord Delamer's "Advice to his Children," printed in his works, he ſays, "There never yet was any good man, who had not an ardent zeal for his country."

moſt virulent attacks from the partizans and advocates of deſpotic power; and his zeal in ſupport of the great rights of mankind, ſhould, therefore, the more endear his memory to thoſe who are actuated by the ſame generous principles. He is juſtly entitled to our veneration for the ardour of his patriotiſm, as well as for that elevation of genius, which enabled him to reflect ſo much honour on his country by his immortal writings."

The various publications of Dr. Towers, the boldneſs of his principles, his unabated zeal, and the ſide he had taken during the American conteſt, have all tended to render him conſpicuous.

The Doctor was admitted, in 1779, to the academical honours of the univerſity of Edinburgh, having received the degree of LL.D.

Several of his tracts, &c. have been lately re-publiſhed in three vols. 8vo. with an admirable portrait of the author prefixed, an outline ſketch of which is given in our frontiſpiece.

He has a ſon, who is librarian of Dr. Williams' inſtitution, in Red-croſs-ſtreet, and author of "Illuſtrations of Prophecy," in 2 vol. 8vo. a work of conſiderable merit.

LORD THURLOW.

OF all the *learned profeſſions*, as they are uſually called, that of the law is the moſt propitious, in this country at leaſt, to ſuch as poſſeſs talents, but are deſtitute of fortune. It affords a greater variety of opportunities for a young man to bring both his

natural

natural and acquired parts into a conſpicuous point of view, and conſequently to turn them to an advantageous account, than any other; and where ſterling abilities are united with induſtry and application, the chance of ſucceſs is highly flattering. In ſupport of this aſſertion, one might refer with great confidence to the catalogue of eminent perſons, who have filled the firſt legal departments of this kingdom for centuries paſt: the court calendar, and the peerage of the preſent day, will furniſh proofs ſtill more deciſive.

Edward, Lord Thurlow, was born, A.D. 1735, at Aſhfield, an obſcure village in the country of Suffolk, of which his father, the * reverend Thomas Thurlow (who died in 1762), was vicar, and whence he himſelf derives his barony. The family, like moſt others who bear the ſame name with a great man of former times, is ſaid to be deſcended from the celebrated Thurloe, the ſecretary of Oliver Cromwell; but if ſo, the heralds have omitted the circumſtance, for it is not mentioned in the peerage †. The

* He married Elizabeth Smith, of Aſhfield, by whom he had iſſue,

1. The preſent Lord.

2. Thomas, who died Biſhop of Durham, May 27, 1791, aged 56; and,

3. John, a manufacturer and alderman at Norwich, who died March 4, 1782.

† A ſtory formerly circulated, if true, does great honour to his lordſhip, as it evinces a total abnegation of that ſilly vanity which ſometimes accompanies even great characters:—

On

The ſubject of the preſent ſketch, after receiving a tolerable education from his father, who is ſaid, perhaps unjuſtly, to have attended to the learning *only* of his children, he was removed to Cambridge, and entered of Caius college, under the tuition of Dr. Smith, the preſent maſter. While there, his conduct was ſo irregular, and his ſpirit ſo haughty, as often to provoke academic cenſure. The frequency with which this was adminiſtered, had no other effect upon a mind naturally untractable, than to produce occaſions for ſtricter diſcipline. At length it was hinted to him pretty plainly, that a voluntary departure from Cambridge would be a prudent ſtep on his part, to prevent the higheſt puniſhment that an univerſity can inflict. He accordingly quitted his college without taking any degree, and repaired to the metropolis, where, after ſpending ſome conſiderable time, and exhauſting his finances, in a manner, we may ſuppoſe, not very different from that which had diſtinguiſhed him elſewhere, he engaged, at the entreaty of his friends, in the ſtudy of the law, and accordingly entered himſelf of the Inner Temple. How he conducted himſelf in this new ſituation is little known; but thoſe who remember him ſay, that there was nothing either in his

On being aſked by a flatterer, while Lord High Chancellor, "if he was not deſcended from the great ſecretary Thurloe?" he is ſaid to have replied as follows: "There were two of that name in my country, Sir; the one Thurloe the ſtateſman, the other Thurlow the carrier—I am deſcended from the latter."

appli-

application or his converſation, that warranted any expectation of his ſubſequent celebrity. Even long after his being called to the bar, he continued unknown and unnoticed, and conſequently unemployed. At length a fortunate circumſtance occurred, which gave him an opportunity or ſhewing to the world that he was poſſeſſed of powers of the firſt order. By ſome means or other, with which we are not acquainted, he was employed to arrange and ſtate the caſe of Mr. Archibald Douglas, now Lord Douglas, in the great legal conteſt with the Duke of Hamilton; and this taſk, which was a very complex and important one, he executed in a moſt maſterly manner *.

About this time he alſo acquired the favour and patronage of Lord Weymouth; who brought him into parliament; and from that moment the path to honours and emoluments lay ſmooth before him; for not long after he was made one of the king's counſel, then (in 1770) appointed Solicitor-general, and in a few months more he ſucceeded Sir William de Grey, as Attorney-general. It is very remarkable, however, that the univerſity of Cambridge never named him, according to uſual cuſtom, one of its ſtanding counſel. Whether this neglect proceeded from a recollection of his former conduct, or from his having left college

* He had ſignalized himſelf before this, in a cauſe, in which the late earl of Winchelſea and Mr. Luke Robinſon were concerned; and it is not at all unlikely, that it led to his being retained in the great Scotch conteſt, above-mentioned.

without

without taking a degree, is uncertain. But though unmindful of him, it redounds to his honour, that on his advancement to the Chancellorſhip he remembered his old tutor, as well as his college aſſociates, and conferred favours upon them which they never could have expected, more eſpecially from one who had met with a treatment bordering on ſeverity at their hands. Many anecdotes of his generoſity might be related; but one ſhall ſuffice.

While at college, he was often too licentious with his tongue, and entering once into a diſpute with an elective and temporary officer, he was aſked "whether he knew that he was talking to the *dean?*"—"Yes, Mr. *Dean*," replied Mr. Thurlow; and never afterwards ſaw him without reiterating "*Mr. Dean! Mr. Dean!*" which ſet them at variance. When he became Attorney-general, they met by accident; and he addreſſed his old friend, *unwittingly*, with "How do you do, Mr. *Dean?*" which ſo hurt the *cantab*, that he left the room without making him any reply. On his obtaining the office of Lord Chancellor, he took an opportunity of meeting once more with his quondam acquaintance, and again addreſſed him with "How "do you do, Mr. *Dean?*" "My Lord," replied the other, ſullenly, "I am not now a dean, and there-"fore do not deſerve the title." "But you are a "dean," ſaid his lordſhip; "and to ſatisfy you that "it is ſo, read this paper, by which you will find "that you are Dean of——: and I am ſo convinc-"ed that you will do honour to the appointment,

" that I am ſorry any part of my conduct ſhould " have given offence to ſo good a man."

He was twice elected member of parliament (if his *nomination* may be ſo termed) for the borough of Tamworth, in Staffordſhire ; and during the time he ſat in the Houſe of Commons he was greatly reſpected by both ſides for the candour, and talents, which he uniformly diſplayed. There he became a firm and undaunted ſupporter of the meaſures of the exiſting adminiſtration, and certainly no man was ever called upon to defend a more unpopular one. Lord North found his eloquence, promptitude, and reſolution, of ſuch vaſt ſervice to him againſt his numerous and powerful adverſaries, that in return he gave him the great ſeal, in June, 1778 ; at which time he was created a peer.

On entering upon this high office he ſhewed a firmneſs, and an integrity, rarely equalled. It had been uſual with former chancellors to make conſiderable alterations, on their advancement, in the officers of their court, with a view to ſerve their dependants, or oblige their miniſterial friends: and, in particular, the commiſſioners of bankrupts were commonly changed. On the preſent occaſion, however, hardly any changes were made; and only one perſon was diſmiſſed, which he owed to his own imprudence, in ſoliciting the influence of his lordſhip's miſtreſs.

The ſituation of the chancellor in the Houſe of Lords, as ſpeaker, is not only of great importance,

but

but of peculiar delicacy, and requires much addreſs. The hereditary members of the conſtitution are generally fraught with lofty ſentiments, and feel but little inclination to bend to the authority of a man raiſed from among the herd of practitioners in the inferior courts. Although the powers veſted in the ſpeaker be very great, yet they had ſeldom been exerciſed over a debate in reſtraining the exuberances of the noble orators; the conſequence of which was, that they frequently wandered wide of the queſtion, beſides committing other irregularities inconſiſtent with the dignity of ſo auguſt an aſſembly. Lord Thurlow determined to exert himſelf in reforming theſe abuſes, and ſhewing that a chancellor ought to be looked up to with deference, inſtead of ſitting, as had been too often the caſe, a mere cypher. His interference in the debate, to preſerve order, and to confine the members immediately to the point, excited no ſmall ſurprize and diſſatisfaction; at laſt the Duke of Grafton, feeling himſelf hurt at a check which he had experienced, remonſtrated againſt it with great ſharpneſs. For this he received a correction on the inſtant, in terms that were pointedly ſevere, yet ſpiritedly decorous; and from that moment Lord T.'s character and authority roſe to the proper level in that houſe.

During the remainder of the North adminiſtration, he continued an uniform and able defender of the meaſures of government. Indeed, a ſtronger proof of the univerſal eſteem in which he was held by all parties could not be adduced, than in his

retaining the ſeals at the expreſs requeſt of the new miniſtry. He never, however, cordially united with Lord Shelburne, when that nobleman was at the head of affairs, though he held the chancellorſhip during his ſhort-lived adminiſtration.

On the entrance of the coalition junto into power, his Lordſhip reſigned his ſtation with becoming dignity: the ſeals were put in commiſſion: but he reſumed them again when that ſtrange monſter was driven out by the united voice of the people.

Few men, while occupying that high poſt, have gained ſuch a degree of popularity as Lord Thurlow; and it ought to be obſerved, that the times in which he has lived have been extremely critical, and that he has had to encounter many events of a very difficult and arduous nature.

The moſt remarkable period in his life, and that upon which his future biographer will have to dwell with the greateſt complacency, is the epoch of the king's illneſs. No ſituation could be more trying; and certainly no man ever conducted himſelf in a trying ſituation with greater fortitude or wiſdom. His integrity on that occaſion was, indeed, conſpicuous; and he had the rare ſatisfaction of receiving for his reward, the grateful acknowledgements of both prince and people at the ſame time. His ſpeeches on the Regency queſtion, will ever remain upon record as the moſt precious memorials of unſhaken rectitude; and that declaration which, in a manner, may be ſaid

to

to have electrified the Houſe of Peers, " When I forſake my king in the " hour of his diſtreſs, may my God forſake me!" ought to be engraven upon his monument.

After having acted with Mr. Pitt, ever ſince that gentleman came into office, till the preſent eventful war, a marked difference of opinion in the cabinet at length rendered the reſignation of one or other of theſe ſtateſmen unavoidable. Accordingly Lord Thurlow delivered up the great ſeal, in a manner, and in terms that affected his royal patron very forcibly. Doubtleſs his Majeſty could not but recollect, at that moment, the ſervices which the ex-chancellor had rendered him in the awful ſeaſon when he was, as it were, ſhut out from ſociety, and oppreſſed with the moſt ſevere of human maladies!

From that time, Lord T. has contented himſelf with enjoying the *otium cum dignitate*, in his retirement at Dulwich. But though he has withdrawn himſelf from the preſent miniſtry, he has not petulantly joined the phalanx of oppoſition. His mind is ſuperior to party connexion, which, at the beſt, is but a mean kind of bondage. While in office, he preſerved an independent ſpirit, and was always ready to expreſs his diſſatisfaction at the meaſures of his colleagues in power; and now that he has no ſhare in the government, he is equally free in reproving or commending either miniſters or their opponents.

His great characteriſtics are ſteadineſs, uniformity,

mity, and inflexibility, which often proceed to a length that, in others, would be termed obſtinacy. No man can ſhake him from his purpoſe, when his opinion is once fixed. With this ſpirit of determination, is, however, united a powerful principle of integrity. In all the ſituations which he has filled, he has conducted himſelf in ſuch a manner that no enemy can find an occaſion to faſten any ſuſpicion upon him. Though a ſtranger to gentleneſs of voice or manner, he poſſeſſes a large and very liberal mind. In the diſpoſal of preferments, his chief regard ever was to merit; and he has been often known to reſiſt the influence of his miniſterial aſſociates, in order to bring in thoſe whom he ſuppoſed to be better qualified for the vacant offices.

As a public ſpeaker, he poſſeſſes great powers; and though devoid of the more winning graces which ſteal their way to the heart, he carries home conviction to it, by a ſelect arrangement of words, a dignity of utterance, a cloſe and logical mode of argument, and a ſingular expreſſiveneſs of countenance.

With ſuch qualifications, and ſuch virtues, not to poſſeſs ſome failings would be more than falls to the lot of humanity. Thoſe of his lordſhip ariſe entirely from a defect in his early education, and from the peculiar caſt of his mind. Juvenile habits and indiſcretions are rarely ſo altered in more advanced life, as not to leave ſome tincture of

of their influence, unleſs in very flexible diſpoſitions alone.

Lord Thurlow's character is replete with integrity and liberality; and therefore a few imperfections may the more reaſonably be excuſed*. Coarſe lan-

* One of the moſt learned men of the preſent day, perhaps, dipped his pen in the *gall* of party prejudice, when he drew the following character of his lordſhip under the name of Novius:

"Minas poſſumus contemnere vocémque fulmineam Thraſonici iſtius Oratoris τῦ τὰς ὀῤῥῦς κυανέας ἐπηρκότος, cujus vulticulum, uti Noviorum iſtius minoris, ferre poſſe ſe negat Quadruplatorum genus omne et Subſcriptorum. Quid enim? truculentus ſemper incedit, tetérque, et terribilis aſpectu. De ſupercilio autem iſto quid dicendum eſt? annon reipublicæ illud quaſi pignus quoddam videtur? annon ſenatus illo, tanquam Atlante cœlum, innititur.

"Ferunt profectò Novium in 'ſummâ feritate eſſe verſutiſſimum, promtúmque ingenio ultra Barbarum.' Quod ſi demſeris illi aut σφοδρότητα quanta in Bruto fuit, aut πικρότητα verè Menippeam, aut προσώπυ σκυθρότητα propriam et ſuam, facilè eidem juris nodos legúmque ænigmata ad ſolvendum permiſeris.

"Fervido quodam et petulanti genere dicendi utitur, eodémque, nec valdè nitenti, nec planè horrido. Solutos irridentium cachinnos ita commovet, ut lepores ejus, ſcurriles et prorſús veteratorios diceres. Omnia loquitur verborum ſanè bonorum curſu quodam incitato, itémque voce, qua ne ſubſellia quidem ipſa deſiderant pleniorem et grandiorem. In adverſariis autem lacerandis ita cauſidicorum figuras jaculatur, ita callida et malitioſa juris interpretatione utitur, ita furere et bacchari ſolet, ut ſæpè mirere tam alias res agere optimates, ut ſit penè inſano inter diſertos locus.

"Fuit ei, perinde atque aliis, fortuna pro virtutibus. Didicit autem à Muciano, ſatis clarum eſſe apud timentem, quiſquis timeatur. Corpore ipſe ingens, animi immodicus, verbis magnificus,

language, at times, is ſaid to eſcape him; and ſome facetious barriſters have pretended to obſerve an oath *quivering* on his lips, while ſitting at Lincoln's Inn; but the unmannerly ſtranger has never been allowed to eſcape, though his unwilling retention was, doubtleſs, a painful emotion.

His lordſhip was never married, but he has ſeveral natural children.

Although he rents a houſe, and maintains a regular eſtabliſhment, in St. James's-ſquare, yet he never ſleeps in town; but retires inſtantly from the Houſe of Peers to his reſidence, near Dulwich, in Surrey.

Lord Thurlow has ſecured for his nephew, the patent place of clerk of the Hanaper, vacant by the death of the late Lord Northington.

nificus, et ſpecie inanium magis quàm ſapientia validus, ſtudia ad ſe Optimatium illexit, eámque adeptus eſt auctoritatem, quæ homini novo pro facundia eſſe poſſet. Scilicet, quæ bonis Titio, Seioque turpiſſima forent, Novium noſtrum maximè decent, ſiquidem è ſubſellis elapſus de Tribunali nunci pronuntiet, et ex Præcone aionum factus ſit inſtitor eloquentiæ ſenatoriæ. Quam igitur in civitate gratiam dicendi facultate Q. Varius conſecutus eſt, vaſtus homo atque fœdus, eandem Novius intelligit, illa ipſa facultate, quamcunque habet, ſe eſſe in Senatu conſecutum——

——"Ellum, *confidens*, *catus*:
Cùm faciem videas, videtur eſſe quantivis preti:
Triſtis ſeveritas ineſt in voltu, atque in verbis fides."

"Of that orator, who carries menace and terror in his brow, we think the eloquence Thraſonic, and deſpiſe its loudeſt thunders; whoſe aſpect, like the younger Novius, repels all underlings and petitioners," &c.

THE

THE MARQUIS CORNWALLIS.

THE ſubject of this memoir has acted with ſucceſs in the character of a ſtateſman as well as a ſoldier. Like the Roman conſuls of old, he has received and diſpatched ambaſſadors; he has declared war, and granted peace. He fought for the preſervation of an empire in America; he retained and enlarged the Britiſh dominions in Aſia; and in Europe, he has humbled the enemies of his country, and, by his energy and humane policy, has cruſhed a civil war in the bud.

Marquis Cornwallis, whoſe family is very ancient and honourable, was born December 31ſt, 1738, and ſeems to have been intended, from his cradle, for the army. He accordingly entered into the ſervice at a very early age; and we find him in 1758, when only twenty years old, and at a period when promotions were leſs rapid than at preſent, a Captain in Colonel Craufurd's light infantry, under the title of *Lord Broome*. Three years after this, he accompanied the Marquis of Granby to the continent, in the honourable and confidential capacity of one of his *Aids-de-camp*, and was of courſe attendant on the perſon of that gallant nobleman during the campaign. It was thus, in the fields of Germany, and under the moſt ſkilful and celebrated generals of the day, that Lord Broome acquired the rudiments of the art of war, and prepared himſelf to command, by firſt learning to obey.

In

In 1761, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-colonel of the twelfth regiment of foot; and we then find him discharging his civil as well as military duties, by sitting as a representative in parliament for the Borough of Eye.

On the death of his father, who was the fifth peer of his family, in 1762, he of course vacated his seat in the House of Commons, and appeared in the House of Peers, under the title of Earl Cornwallis. In 1765, he was nominated one of the lords of the bedchamber; and about the same time, was honoured with the appointment of *Aid-de-camp* to his present Majesty, which was tantamount to a promotion in the army.

His spirit, however, was manly and independent. The favours of the crown did not make him forget the duties of the peerage; for he voted frequently againſt the minister, and sometimes adopted what is called the *popular side* of the question; in particular, when the memorable bill for securing the legislative power of Great Britain over the American colonies was introduced into the upper house, Lord Cornwallis was one of the five who refused their consent. This feeble, but respectable opposition, was headed by the venerable Earl Camden*. He also, on another remarkable occasion, entered his protest againſt the question to vote away privilege in matters of libel.

* Lord Mansfield rallied his Lordship on this occasion, on account of the youth of his associates. "Poor Camden!" said the Chief Justice, "Could you only get four boys to "support you!"

Luckily

Luckily for the nation, his political did not interfere with his military career; for, in 1766, he was promoted to the command of the thirty-third regiment of foot, which he ſtill holds; and two years afterwards, married Miſs Jemima Tulikens Jones, daughter of James Jones, Eſq. whoſe ſingular ſucceſſion to a large fortune is related at large in the memoirs of the facetious Tate Wilkinſon. With this lady, who brought him two children (a ſon and a daughter), he enjoyed every felicity the connubial ſtate is capable of yielding, until he was called on to embark with his regiment for America. On this occaſion, Lady Cornwallis, inconſolable at the idea of parting from him, after urging every plea that affection could ſuggeſt, applied to his uncle, then Archbiſhop of Canterbury, who, at her requeſt, procured the king's leave of abſence. But, notwithſtanding all the fondneſs of the huſband, duty prevailed over affection, and a nice ſenſe of honour urged her dearly-beloved lord to forſake her. The ſeparation was, however, too much for her weak nerves to bear; ſhe literally fell a prey to love, ſunk beneath the weight of her grief, and died; thus affording a moſt ſingular and romantic inſtance of conjugal affection!

Shortly after his arrival in America, we find his lordſhip ſerving under Sir Willian Howe, with the rank of Major-general, and acting as an able and indefatigable partiſan. Having landed, in November, 1786, on the New Jerſey ſhore, at the head of a detached corps, and found Fort Lee evacuated,

cuated, he inſtantly penetrated into the country, and took poſſeſſion of the province. At the end of the campaign, he repaired to New York, with a view to embark for Great Britain; but having received advice of the diſaſtrous affair of Trentown, with the unpremeditated gallantry of a ſoldier, he deferred his voyage, and returned to the Jerſeys.

His lordſhip's firſt enterprize in 1777, was an attempt to ſurprize an American poſt in his neighbourhood, in which he in part ſucceeded. Soon after this, he received orders from General Howe to abandon the Jerſeys, and in July he embarked with the Engliſh commander-in-chief in the expedition to the Cheſapeak.

This was not a conteſt in which large armies contended with each other, and in which the fate of a battle was to decide the lot of an empire. On the contrary, it was what the French term a *petite guerre*; a war of poſts and of ſkirmiſhes, of night marches and ſurpiſes, in which the climate and the ſword cut off thouſands, without putting a period to hoſtilities. It is in vain, therefore, to expect any very ſplendid achievements on ſo narrow a field of enterprize, when it is recollected that both armies would have ſcarcely conſtituted an advanced guard to a continental general, in the conflicts we have ſo recently witneſſed.

In ſeveral of the ſubſequent events, his lordſhip took a very active part. He commanded a conſiderable body of troops at the paſſage of the Brandywine,

wine, and after driving the enemy before him, entered and took poſſeſſion of Philadelphia, on the 24th of September, 1777. This was then conſidered a very important acquiſition; but it was ſoon diſcovered, that a country might be over-run without being ſubjugated, and that the poſſeſſion even of a province, does not always depend on ſecuring the capital.

From that period until 1779, when he embarked as a lieutenant-general with Sir Henry Clinton for the ſiege of Charleſtown, he ſeems to have had few opportunities of ſignalizing himſelf. On the ſurrender of the place, the command of South Carolina, with about 4000 troops, devolved upon him. On hearing this, General Gates, who had rendered himſelf ſo famous by the capture of Burgoyne and his army at Saratoga, took poſt near Camden, where he had collected about 3,600 men. Lord Cornwallis, inſtead of being daunted at this event, advanced with an inferior force; and on the morning of the 16th of October, a ſevere action took place, which was ſoon decided by the ſpirit of the Britiſh troops, who, after a ſmart fire, had recourſe to their bayonet; and the Americans having at length given way, were purſued nearly twenty miles. Seven pieces of cannon, the greater part of the baggage, and a thouſand priſoners, conſtituted the trophies of this day.

Early in 1781, General Arnold, who now relinquiſhed both the cauſe and the ſervice of his native country, had landed in the Cheſapeak,

where

where he did conſiderable miſchief to his former aſſociates. Lord Cornwallis, on hearing of this, determined to effect a junction with him, in order to everwhelm the Marquis La Fayette, ſince ſo much celebrated for his patriotiſm and ſufferings during the French revolution.

Accordingly, having diſpatched Colonel (now General) Tarleton with the cavalry, and Colonel Simcoe being ſent forward by Arnold, with the Queen's rangers, they took poſſeſſion of the fords on the Nottoway and the Meherrin, the only rivers that intervened; and a junction took place between the two armies, at Peterſburgh, on the 20th of May. Immediately after this, the Britiſh army croſſed James-river, at Weſtover, in purſuit of the French commander, who by this time had decamped from the neighbourhood of Richmond, and retired towards the back country with ſuch celerity, that it was impoſſible to overtake him.

In the mean while, Sir Henry Clinton, who was apprehenſive for the ſafety of New-York, blamed Lord Cornwallis for penetrating ſo far; and a coolneſs from this moment ſeems to have taken place, which ended in a ſubſequent diſpute and appeal to the public. No ſooner were the diſpatches received, however, than his lordſhip, knowing that obedience is one of the firſt duties of a ſoldier, abandoned Portſmouth, and concentrated his forces at York and Glouceſter.

General Waſhington, on learning this, was deſirous to ſtrike a blow, that might poſſibly put a

period

period to the war, and accordingly formed the daring project of capturing the brave Earl and all his forces. Rochambeau, the French commander, entered with great ſpirit into the ſcheme; and it unluckily proved but too ſucceſsful. The combined armies of France and America, in conſequence of this, paſſed through Philadelphia, and at length arrived, on the 28th of September, in ſight of York-Town, at which the Britiſh troops ſtill remained poſted, in conſequence of diſpatches from the commander-in-chief, promiſing immediate relief. Lord Cornwallis on this withdrew his forces within the place, in full confidence of holding out, until the arrival of the promiſed ſuccours. The works thus abandoned by him, were occupied next day by the confederates, and the town regularly inveſted.

The Engliſh commander being now reduced to the alternative of either ſurrendering or attempting to eſcape, of courſe perferred the latter, and actually conceived the idea of croſſing the river, ſurpriſing Brigadier Choiſe, who was poſted on the other ſide, mounting his own infantry on the cavalry of the vanquiſhed, and thus effecting a retreat, which would have been infinitely more glorious than any victory.

In purſuance of this deſign, the light infantry, &c. were actually embarked in boats, and tranſported to the Glouceſter ſhores, in the courſe of the night; but a violent ſtorm having ariſen, the troops were driven much lower than was intend-

ed,

ed, and prevented, during a conſiderable time, from returning. In this diſtreſsful ſituation, and deſtitute even of ammunition, his lordſhip, unwilling to expoſe the remains of his gallant army to an aſſault, conſented, on the 17th of October, to capitulate; and the terms were, on the whole, not unfavourable.

Lord Cornwallis now returned to his native country, in order to repoſe himſelf after the fatigues of an unfortunate war, and enjoy all the happineſs that can poſſibly enſue from the ſweets of private friendſhip and public eſteem.

During the political conteſts that took place in 1782, and 1783, his lordſhip was, for a time, deprived of his place as Lieutenant of the Tower of London, which he had obtained ſeveral years before; but in the year 1784 it was reſtored to him. The calm that enſued after the peace, prevented his talents from being called into action for ſome years; but the affairs of India no ſooner began to aſſume a critical aſpect, than a man was looked for, who united in his own perſon the eſteem and confidence of the king, the miniſtry, and the people. Cornwallis was accordingly pitched upon, and immediately appointed to the high, honourable, and important ſituation of Governor-general of Bengal, and to dignify his miſſion, he was honoured with the order of the Garter.

No ſooner did he arrive there, than a war took place with Tippoo Sultan, ſon of the famous Hyder, who, from humble beginnings, attained

great

great power, acquired extenſive territories, and organized an immenſe army. The conduct of hoſtilities was at firſt intruſted to the Madras government; but little or no progreſs being made, the Governor-general left Calcutta, and proceeded to the ſcene of action, where he arrived on the 12th of December, 1790. Having inſtantly aſſumed the command of the grand army, he proceeded to Vellore, and ſeemed to meditate an attack on the Myſore country, by the Baramahal Valley. The ſultaun, unacquainted with European tactics, was deceived by this motion; for the Engliſh ſoon after made a rapid march to the Muglu Paſs, through which they penetrated with little or no oppoſition.

Within a few miles of Bangalore, Tippoo's army at length diſplayed itſelf on the heights, in excellent order; and it ſoon appeared that his ſubjects, as if in love with deſpotiſm, were attached both to his perſon and government. Notwithſtanding this, Bangalore was immediately inveſted, and the *pettah*, or town, ſtormed and taken on the very next day. The reduction of the fort itſelf followed ſoon after.

The Engliſh troops having been joined by the Nizam, and a reinforcement of 5000 men, under Colonel Oldham, Lord Cornwallis determined to march againſt Seringapatam, the capital of Tippoo; and on the 13th of May the army arrived within ſight of a place, the capture of which was expected to put a period to all its toils, and reward all its labours. As the ſultaun had poſted thither a few days be-

fore, and occupied an advantageous camp, it was determined to carry it, if poſſible, by ſurpriſe; but this ſcheme proved abortive, from the vigilance of the enemy, who were, nevertheleſs, obliged to abandon their poſition.

It was impoſſible, however, at this period, to attempt the ſiege of ſo formidable a place as Seringapatam; for, in addition to a variety of other cauſes, there was an abſolute deficiency in the article of proviſions.

Having, therefore, ſent notice to General Abercrombie, who was marching to his aſſiſtance, to return, the Commander-in-chief deſtroyed his battering train, and retreated to Bangalore, being joined on his march thither by 30,000 Mahrattas.

Early, however, in the enſuing ſpring, the Britiſh army retraced its ſteps, and appeared once more before the metropolis of the Myſore, where it found Tippoo again ſtrongly intrenched. He was, however, attacked, and obliged, as before, to retreat. The Bombay army forming a junction ſoon after, regular approaches were made, redoubts were raiſed, and had it not been for ſome unlucky events, in reſpect to which his Lordſhip was entirely blameleſs, the ſultaun, after being ſtripped of his capital, and bereaved of his power, would have been laid proſtrate at his feet.

He, however, was obliged to accept of ſuch terms as the Engliſh commander choſe to dictate. He conſented to cede part of his dominions, paid a large ſum of money, undertook to furniſh a ſtill

more

more conſiderable portion of treaſure, within a limited period, &c. and entruſted two of his ſons to the care of Lord Cornwallis, with whom they were to remain as hoſtages for the due performance of the treaty: and here it is but juſtice to a prince, whom we are accuſtomed to ſtyle a *barbarian*, to obſerve, that he fulfilled every article with the moſt ſcrupulous punctuality.

This important war being now ended, highly to the honour of the Britiſh arms, Lord Cornwallis returned to England, without being enriched by a poſt, in which avarice and rapacity could eaſily have realized a princely fortune—but he neither exacted a *jaghire* from the conquered ſovereign, nor increaſed his own income by venality or extortion.

Honours and employments, both ſo well earned, awaited him at home. He had been before inveſted with the inſignia of the Garter; he was now (1792) created a Marquis, admitted a member of the Privy Council; and, in addition to his other appointments, was nominated to the lucrative office of Maſter-general of the Ordnance, in conſequence of which he had a ſeat in the Cabinet.

Returning once more to the boſom of domeſtic happineſs, the Marquis ſeemed to promiſe to himſelf a life of eaſe and quiet in his native country. Such, however, was not his deſtiny. Ireland was diſorganized, and the Engliſh power there ſhook to its very centre. It was even doubtful how long it would appertain to Great Britain; for it was

menaced by insurrection within, and invasion from without. One of these events had actually taken place, and the other soon followed.

In this critical state of affairs, the eyes of the cabinet, and the nation, were once more turned towards him, and he was invested with the vice-regal powers, amidst the acclamations of both kingdoms. His administration has been short; but it has been successful. The insurgents have been beaten, the disaffected have been disarmed, and an invading enemy has been taken captive. But his administration has been accompanied by merits of another, and of a better kind; for military despotism has ceased, the system of plunder and free quarters has been checked, and the torture, the rack, the whip, the scourge, and the halter, abolished, as instruments not within the pale of legitimate government *.

DR. JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, F.R.S. &c. &c. &c.

THE names of Galileo and of Priestley, excite a multitude of melancholy ideas!—The verdict of posterity has, however, done ample justice to the

* Since the discussion of the late grand question concerning an union, the popularity of his lordship has somewhat abated, in consequence of what has been considered as an attempt to overcome the freedom of debate, by means of official dismissions; and to legalize martial-law, in civil cases.

memory

memory of one of them; and, although, too late be heard by the injured individual, will assuredly rectify the mistaken opinions of his contemporaries, concerning the other. It will be scarcely believed, indeed, that within a few years of the commencement of the 19th century, an illustrious philosopher should have been driven from his native country on account of his supposed political opinions; and that a brutal mob should have been allowed, in the name of "Church and King," to have destroyed his dwelling, threatened his person, and rendered his life unsafe, in the land which gave him birth!

Dr. Joseph Priestley was born March 13th, 1733, at Bristall-field-head, near Leeds, in Yorkshire. This part of the country, for a long series of years, has been celebrated for its manufactures, and the Priestleys were one of the first families, in point of consequence, engaged in the broad-cloth trade. The Doctor, while only seven years of age, was taken into the house of an aunt, Mrs. Keighley, and was brought up by her husband, who having no child of his own, adopted, and appears to have transferred that affection to him, which nature had intended for his own offspring.

Mr. Joseph Keighley, after whom young Priestley was, most probably, named, was a remarkable character. He had been once, like St. Paul, a great persecutor, and like him too became a convert. So violent was he against the dissenters, that he was accustomed to find out their meetings,

which, during the times of perſecution, began about eleven o'clock at night, and ended at two o'clock in the morning. Happening once to diſcover their place of worſhip, he determined to ſecrete himſelf in a convenient place, in order to develope their heterodoxical tenets, expoſe their hereſies, detect their plots, and conſign them to the vengeance of the civil magiſtrate. The event, however, was far different from what might have been expected from a man led aſtray by blind prejudices; for after attending to their rites, inſtead of delivering the miniſter up to puniſhment, he took him home to his houſe, and ſupported him there, until liberty was obtained for the ſect.

Under this ſingular perſon, Joſeph Prieſtley was brought up, and ſoon diſcovered an amazing attachment to learning. At the age of eleven, he ſurprized all who ſaw him, by his early proficiency. At that time he read, or rather devoured, Bunyan's works; and it was thought that he would become one of the firſt Calviniſtical teachers of his day. But as the Prieſtleys were then in a flouriſhing ſtate, and had acquired a certain degree of opulence and conſideration by trade, they were inclined to bring him up to buſineſs. He, however, was at laſt ſent to the academy at Daventry, under the care of Dr. Aſhworth, with an intention of being bred to the diſſenting miniſtry, and his uncle dying, his aunt paid the expences of his education.

But while the zealots for Calviniſm were looking

forward with complacency to the time when their apoſtle was to commence his pious labours, a change took place, from conviction, in his religious tenets; for at this period he became acquainted with ſome Arian and Baxterian miniſters, whoſe arguments appeared to be ſtronger than thoſe of the ſect, with whom he had heretofore been accuſtomed to aſſociate.

When about twenty years of age, he ſettled, for a little time, with a congregation at Needham in Suffolk; but as the opinions of the teacher did not correſpond with thoſe of his flock, and he was too honeſt to conceal his ſentiments, he was ſoon deſerted. In this ſituation, he accepted of an invitation to Namptwich in Cheſhire; although thoſe who wiſhed for his moral and ſpiritual aſſiſtance were not able to promiſe him more than *30l. per annum*. In order to eke out this ſcanty income, he acted as a ſchoolmaſter; and happening to attract the notice of men capable of appreciating his worth, he ſoon acquired celebrity.

At this time, there exiſted a college at Warrington, in which the ſons of many reſpectable diſſenters were brought up, and where alſo a great number of young men were qualified for their miniſtry. Thither Mr. Prieſtley was invited, and taught the *belles lettres* in that inſtitution, then in the zenith of its reputation.

As it was now a proper time for him to ſettle in life, and the means of maintaining a family preſented itſelf, he determined to marry; he was

accordingly united to Miſs Wilkinſon, daughter of Mr. Wilkinſon, of Briſtol.

But the period had arrived, when a great revolution was to take place in this once celebrated and flouriſhing ſeminary. The principal ſupporters of the academy, and thoſe who had been moſt liberal in their ſubſcriptions, being cut off in the courſe of nature, and not being ſucceeded by men equally warm in their zeal, a ſpeedy diſſolution was threatened.

At this time the Doctor received an invitation to preſide over a flouriſhing and opulent congregation at Leeds, and was adviſed by his friends to remove thither.

After ſome years' reſidence there, he was recommended by his friend, Dr. Price, to Lord Shelburne, who nobly wiſhed to have in his family a literary companion, to whoſe ſociety, at hours of leiſure, he might reſort with pleaſure and advantage, and who might have a general ſuperintendence of the education of his two ſons; whilſt an able tutor, the Rev. Mr. Jervis, recommended by the ſame friend, had the immediate care of the youths, and conſtantly lived with them. When in town, Dr. Prieſtley reſided with his lordſhip, and had a houſe at Calne provided for his family, with whom he lived during the ſummer months, and generally walked to Bowood every day.

This ſituation of honourable leiſure the Dr. employed in proſecuting his philoſophical purſuits, with all the advantages ſuch a worthy patron furniſhed

niſhed. He continued in that capacity during ſeven years; and, at the end of that period, retired with an annuity of 150*l. per annum.*

Soon after this, he had an invitation to Birmingham, where he continued until his place of reſidence, and the meeting-houſe in which he officiated, were both burned to the ground!

A little ſubſequent to this cataſtrophe, Dr. Prieſtley ſucceeded his old friend, Dr. Price, in the diſſenting meeting at Hackney; but his ſituation being rendered particularly unpleaſant, and even unſafe, on account of the times, he purchaſed an eſtate in America, and removed thither in 1794.

Since his arrival on the tranſatlantic continent, he has experienced many diſtinguiſhed acts of favour and civility; but theſe have been counterbalanced by ſevere afflictions, for he has buried a wife and a ſon *.

His preſent reſidence is at Northumberland, a new built and well-ſituated town, in the ſtate of Penſylvania, about 120 miles from Philadelphia, where he enjoys an uninterrupted ſtate of good health, and a ſmall but very agreeable ſociety. His eldeſt ſon, who is married, and who cultivates a large tract of territory, as well as his friend Mr.

* Dr. P. is ſtill occupied with ſcientific diſcuſſions, and remains firmly attached to the doctrine of *phlogiſton*, in favour of which he has adduced ſome freſh arguments, in two ſmall pamphlets publiſhed in 1793 and 1796, the firſt intitled "Experiments on the Generation of Air from Water," and the latter "Experiments and Obſervations relating to the Analyſis of atmoſpherical Air," and likewiſe in ſome letters which he has recently tranſmitted to the editor of the Monthly Magazine and to the Medical Repoſitory of New York.

Cooper,

Cooper, late of Mancheſter, reſide alſo at Northumberland, and no doubt add much to his domeſtic enjoyments.

The publications of Dr. Prieſtley are ſo numerous, that a bare analyſis of them would fill a volume of itſelf. Hiſtory, Divinity, Education, Politics, Philoſophy, Metaphyſics—all theſe, at different times, have been the ſubject of his lucubrations. But it is, probably, as an experimental enquirer, that the name and writings of this GREAT MAN will be handed down to poſterity with moſt applauſe. His reſearches in this way are ſo numerous and important, that they form a kind of æra in the hiſtory of natural knowledge. Indeed, however extraordinary it may now appear, before the date of his diſcoveries, very little was known reſpecting the conſtituent principles of the atmoſphere in which we live; he conſequently ventured into this new and difficult region of philoſophical inveſtigation, with but very imperfect guides to direct his approaches to truth. Soon after the dawnings of philoſophy had begun to irradiate the weſtern hemiſphere, it had, indeed, been ſhewn, that the air had gravity and elaſticity, that *ſome* vapours poſſeſſed the property of deſtroying animal life, and of extinguiſhing flame, and that others could be eaſily ignited—effects ſo extraordinary in their nature, that they could hardly eſcape common obſervation. Long afterwards it was likewiſe found, that elaſtic fluids, differing very materially from common air, but agreeing

with

with it in weight, elaſticity, and tranſparency, might be generated even from ſolid ſubſtances. And ſtill nearer our own times, it had been demonſtrated, that the mildneſs or cauſticity of certain ſubſtances depended on the preſence or abſence of a certain kind of air, to which the name of *carbonic acid gas* has lately been given; but it had not, we believe, occurred to any one of thoſe who had turned their attention to this ſubject, that there were more kinds of air than *one*. They were far from entertaining an idea of the great difference which the ingenious experimental attempt of this philoſopher has ſhewn to exiſt among them. It was left for the acute and penetrating genius of Prieſtley to explore the vaſt region of aerial ſcience, and to produce diſcoveries which muſt perpetuate his name, as long as a taſte for knowledge prevails.

In the ſummer of 1767, the Doctor entered upon his career of experimental enquiry, in which he ſeems to have purſued the plan previouſly chalked out by the great Bacon. His progreſs was marked by ſuch rapidity and ſucceſs, that the attention of philoſophers in other countries was ſoon excited to ſimilar purſuits, by which means he has been the cauſe of diſcoveries as unexpected as they are important. It would, however, be utterly impoſſible to compreſs the number and variety of thoſe which have been produced by the laborious reſearch and perſevering induſtry of Dr. Prieſtley into the narrow compaſs of a few pages.

They

They occupy many volumes, which, from the relation they have to an important branch of chemical ſcience, the knowledge of *permanently elaſtic fluids*, deſerve the ſerious conſideration of thoſe who may hereafter turn their thoughts to theſe ſubjects. It is not, however, on the nature of airs merely, that the labours of this philoſopher are entitled to notice; they have thrown much light on the general principles of natural knowledge. In other departments we find him no leſs expert or inquiſitive. His "Hiſtory of the preſent State of Electricity," and of "The preſent State of Diſcoveries relating to Viſion, Light, and Colours," are teſtimonies of the moſt honourable and ſatisfactory kind. The latter is a work, perhaps, but little known, though highly inſtructive and entertaining.

We here cloſe our account, with the ſincere wiſh, that

Sero in cœlum redeat.

MISS HANNAH MORE.

THE controverſy reſpecting the intellectual talents of women, as compared with thoſe of men, is nearly brought to an iſſue, and greatly to the credit of the fair ſex. The preſent age has produced a moſt brilliant conſtellation of female worthies, who have not only diſplayed eminent powers

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in works of fancy, but have greatly diſtinguiſhed themſelves in the higher branches of compoſition. Our own country has the honour of enrolling among its literary ornaments many females, to whom the intereſts of poetry, morality, and the ſciences, are greatly indebted. Among celebrated living ladies may, with juſtice, be mentioned the names of Barbauld, Robinſon, Cowley, Smith, Radcliffe, Farren, Piozzi, Seward, Lee, Hays, Inchbald, Cappe, Plumptree, Trimmer, Yearſley, Williams, D'Arblay, Bennet, Linwood, Coſway, Kauffman, and Siddons.

The female who is the ſubject of the preſent notice is well known to the literary world, by ſeveral elegant, ingenious and uſeful publications. A few particulars reſpecting her, therefore, will not only be amuſing to thoſe who have read her works, but will alſo be inſtructive to young perſons in the way of example.

Miſs Hannah More is the youngeſt of four maiden ſiſters, the daughters of a clergyman, diſtinguiſhed for his claſſical knowledge, and goodneſs of heart.

Hannah, who, at an early period of life, diſcovered a taſte for literature, improved her mind during her leiſure hours by reading; and ſoon peruſed not only the little paternal library, but all the books ſhe could borrow from her friends, in the village of Hanham, near Briſtol. The firſt which fell in her way was the *Pamela* of Richardſon, the humble ſource of an innumerable offſpring; and

happy

happy it would have been for the intereſts of virtue and literature, had the progeny been but as innocent as the parent.

The modeſty and attainments of *Hannah More*, were ſpoken of with general reſpect in her native place, and at length acquired her the patronage of many reſpectable perſons. In the mean time her ſiſters, who being alſo clever and amiable women, had conducted a little ſchool with great ſucceſs, were now enabled, in conſequence of an encreaſing reputation, to undertake the education of young perſons above the ſituation of thoſe to whoſe improvement their attention had hitherto been directed. So great, at length, was their celebrity, that ſeveral ladies of fortune and diſcernment prevailed upon them to remove to Briſtol, about the year 1765, where they opened a boarding-ſchool in Park-ſtreet. This ſeminary, in a ſhort time, became the moſt reſpectable of its kind in the Weſt of England; and many females of rank received their education there.

Among others, who had the advantage of profiting by the inſtruction of the Miſs Mores', was the celebrated Mrs. *Robinſon*, well known for her various elegant publications in proſe and verſe.

Miſs *H. More*, who had removed with the family, had the good fortune of having for a next-door neighbour the Reverend Dr. *Stonehouſe*; who perceiving her merits, diſtinguiſhed her by his friendſhip, which he manifeſted by his inſtructions and recommendation. Both of theſe were of the moſt

eſſential

eſſential ſervice to her in the cultivation of her literary taſte. The doctor was a man of extenſive acquaintance, general knowledge, and elegant manners. He condeſcended not only to examine the occaſional effuſions of her pen, but alſo to correct them, and through his hands all her early efforts paſſed to the preſs. The firſt of theſe was entitled "The Search after Happineſs, a Poem," which was printed at Briſtol under the doctor's eye; and on its publication in London was ſo favourably received, as to encourage the author to further exertions of her powers. She next publiſhed "Sir Eldred of the Bower, and the Bleeding Rock; a legendary Tale;" which ſtyle of writing was become faſhionable, through the ſucceſs of Dr. Goldſmith's ſweet ſtory of Edwin and Angelina.

Miſs *More* now turned her attention to dramatic poetry, and produced a tragedy entitled FATAL FALSEHOOD; which was tolerably well received; but not ſo much as her PERCY, a tragedy, which met with univerſal applauſe. She alſo wrote another tragedy, called the INFLEXIBLE CAPTIVE; which fell ſhort of the merit of her other dramatic pieces. The ſucceſs ſhe met with in this way was owing, in a great meaſure, to the immediate and commanding patronage of Garrick, who entered warmly into her intereſts through the recommendation of Dr. Stonehouſe, with whom he was very intimate *.

She

* The doctor was one of the moſt correct and elegant preachers in the kingdom. When he entered into holy orders, he took occaſion

She afterwards printed a ſmall volume of "Eſſays for Young Ladies," in which ſhe has recommended to them a variety of ingenious and excellent obſervations upon the moſt important ſubjects, expreſſed in elegant language. In 1782, ſhe publiſhed a work, perhaps the moſt popular of all her pieces, entitled "Sacred Dramas; to which is added, "Senſibility, a poetical Epiſtle." In this volume, ſhe has dramatized, in a very natural and feeling manner, ſome of the moſt affecting and inſtructive narratives in the ſacred hiſtory. Many of theſe had been previouſly performed by her ſiſters' pupils; and given ſo much ſatisfaction to thoſe who had ſeen the performances, or read the pieces, as to

occaſion to profit, by his acquaintance with Garrick, in order to procure from him ſome valuable inſtructions in elocution. Being once engaged to read prayers, and to preach at a church in the city, he prevailed upon Garrick to go with him. After the ſervice, the Britiſh Roſcius aſked the doctor what particular buſineſs he had to do when the duty was over: "None," ſaid the other "I thought you had (ſaid Garrick), on ſeeing you enter the "reading-deſk in ſuch a hurry."—"Nothing (added he) can be "more indecent, than to ſee a clergyman ſet about ſacred buſineſs "as if he were a tradeſman, and go into the church as if "he wanted to get out of it as ſoon as poſſible."—

He next aſked the doctor "What books he had in the deſk "before him?"—"*Only* the Bible and Prayer-book."—"*Only* the "Bible and Prayer-book," replied the player; "why you toſſed "them backwards and forwards, and turned the leaves as careleſſ-"ly as if they were thoſe of a day-book and ledger."

The doctor was wiſe enough to ſee the force of theſe obſervations, and in future he avoided the faults they were deſigned to reprove.

occaſion

occaſion numerous ſolicitations that they might be printed. The voice of the public accorded with the ſentiments of private friendſhip, and theſe dramas have not only gone through ſeveral large editions, but, we believe, they have been, and are now, frequently performed in reſpectable boarding-ſchools.

Her next production was in a different ſtyle of compoſition; it was entitled "Bas Bleu, with the Tale of Florio," 1785. This poem is ſomewhat in the manner of Fontaine, and hits off the prevailing follies with great ſmartneſs and taſte. The foundation of it was the *Blue Stocking* club, inſtituted by Mrs. Montague.

In 1788, appeared a ſmall volume, called, "Thoughts on the Manners of the Great;" which attracted an uncommon degree of curioſity. As it was anonymous, ſome conjectured it to be the performance of one perſon, and ſome of another. The preſent Biſhop of London, Mr. Wilberforce, and many others, were reputed to be its authors; but at length it was diſcovered to have iſſued from the pen of Miſs More. In this work ſhe attacked, with great ſpirit, the encreaſing licentiouſneſs of high life.

In the period between theſe two publications the ſiſters of Miſs H. Moore having reſigned their ſchool, in favour of Miſs Mills, ſhe retired with them to a neat cottage, which they had purchaſed with the fruits of their joint induſtry, at the foot of the Mendip hills.

Here they inſtituted a ſunday-ſchool, which has greatly encreaſed, and been abundantly bleſſed under their pious and judicious management *.

In 1791, our author publiſhed, without her name, a uſeful and popular little volume, entitled "An Eſtimate of the Religion of the Faſhionable World." This well-timed performance expoſes ſtrongly that lifeleſs profeſſion of Chriſtianity which is the general characteriſtic of the higher orders of ſociety. She has herein the honour of having preceded Mr. Wilberforce, and ſome other eminent perſons, in pleading for the neceſſity of a ſound religious faith, in order to an acceptable courſe of moral practice.

About this time a ſociety was formed, whoſe object was the inſtruction of the poor in morality and religion. The plan adopted was, to print ſtriking, amuſing, and inſtructive tracts, adapted to the capacities of common perſons, and coming eaſily within their ability to purchaſe. On this ground the Cheap Repoſitory was eſtabliſhed, by which many thouſands of moſt uſeful pieces have been circulated in the manufacturing towns and villages of this kingdom. In this benevolent deſign Miſs More was one of the firſt concerned, and towards the ſucceſs of it ſhe has been particularly aſſiſting by her excellent contributions. Among other uſeful tracts of her writing we ſhall only mention

* It is with no common ſatisfaction the Editor now announces, that no leſs than ten ſchools have been inſtituted by the Miſs Mores in the ten adjacent villages, and that 800 children have been educated there.

"*The Shepherd of Salisbury Plain*," a little performance which persons of a refined taste may read with pleasure and profit. She also endeavoured to counteract the progress of those political principles which the French Revolution had made so fashionable; and printed some small tracts, particularly one entitled "Village Politics," in the way of dialogue, which obtained a wide extent of circulation.

Miss More has the credit of having drawn Mrs. Yearsley, the celebrated poetical milk-woman, from her obscurity into public notice and favour. When she had discovered this remarkable phenomenon, she immediately began to exert her benevolence, and by her unwearied assiduity procured a liberal subscription to the poems of this child of nature. She also drew up an interesting account of the milk-woman in a letter to Mrs. Montague; which letter, in order to enlarge the subscription, was published in the newspapers and magazines of the day. By the attentions of Miss More, a sum was raised sufficient to place the object of them in a situation more suitable to her genius. But we are sorry to be obliged to add, that a disagreement almost immediately followed the publication of the poems in question, between the author and her patroness; which is said to have been occasioned by the latter's taking the management of the subscription-money into the hands of herself and some select friends. The motive with which this was done, adds greatly to the credit of Miss More and her

friends, as it was no other than a desire to provide permanently for Mrs. Yearsley and her young family. She, however, had a different opinion, and thought it was unjust in them to withhold from her the management of her own property. She went further, and endeavoured to represent her best friend as actuated by unworthy sentiments, the least of which was, that of *envy*. Some attacks were, in consequence, made upon Miss More in different publications: but, conscious of the purity of her own views, she passed over those invidious attempts to prejudice the public mind against her in silence.

Another phenomenon in that neighbourhood also attracted Miss More's curiosity and benevolence about the same period. A strange female, of elegant figure and manners, had been seen, for some considerable time hovering about the fields near French-hay, and Hanham, of whom no particulars could be discovered. She thankfully received any humble food that was presented to her by the peasants; but always took up her night's lodging under a haystack. Various attempts were made to gain from her the place of her birth, but in vain. It was evident that she was a foreigner, and strange surmises were naturally formed, respecting her country and connexions. Miss More's humanity was roused upon this interesting occasion; and chiefly by her means the fair stranger found a comfortable asylum in the house of Mr. Henderson, at the Fishponds, father of the celebrated, but eccentric, John Henderson, of Pembroke college, Oxford.

Our

Our benevolent author wrote an account of the "Maid of the Hayſtack," which was printed in moſt of the publications of the period.

Miſs More has long been honoured with the particular friendſhip of ſome of the moſt diſtinguiſhed perſonages in the kingdom. She ſpends ſome months in the year at the Duke of Beaufort's ſeat in Glouceſterſhire. She is alſo greatly eſteemed by the Biſhop of London, Mr. Wilberforce, and other perſons eminent for literature and piety.

In the village where ſhe reſides, with her ſiſters, a great and pleaſing reformation has been accompliſhed by their means. Every ſunday evening the children of the ſunday-ſchools, under their immediate patronage, are aſſembled in the ſchool-room, together with the farmers' ſervants, and ſuch other grown perſons as chooſe to attend. In this little congregation prayers are offered up, a plain diſcourſe read, and hymns ſung. Pertinent queſtions are propoſed to the adult part of the auditory, on the plain truths of Chriſtianity; and the whole of this pleaſing ſervice is concluded with a cheerful hymn of praiſe to the God of all theſe mercies.

N. S.

MR. ALDERMAN BOYDELL,

In a volume containing the biography of the eminent artiſts of this country, claims a peculiar and pre-eminent diſtinction; for though the pro-

ductions of his own *burin* cannot be claſſed with thoſe men who have devoted their lives to the practical part of their profeſſion, he has rendered more real ſervice to the Engliſh ſchool than the whole maſs of our nobility, and may very fairly be denominated the father of the arts in Great Britain.

He was born on the 19th of January, 1719, at Dorrington, in Shropſhire, of which place his grandfather was vicar *. His father, who was a land-ſurveyor, intended his ſon for his own profeſſion; and had it not been for one of thoſe little accidents which determine *the path that men are deſtined to walk*, he had waſted that life, which has been ſo honourable to himſelf and beneficial to his country, in meaſuring and valuing the acres of Shropſhire ſquires, and the manors of Welſh baronets. Fortunately for himſelf, and the arts, a trifling incident gave a different direction to his mind, and led him to aim at the delineation of ſcenes more pictureſque than the ground-plans of houſes, boundaries of fields, or windings of obſcure roads.

While he was yet very young, chance threw in his way "Baddeley's Views of different Country Seats;" amongſt them was one of Hawarden Caſtle, Flintſhire, which being the ſeat of Sir John Glynn, by whom he was then employed in his profeſſional capacity, and ſituated in the pariſh of which his father was an inhabitant, naturally attracted his attention. An exact delineation of a building he had

* He was afterwards vicar of Aſhbourne, and rector of Mableton both in Derbyſhire

ſo

ſo often contemplated, afforded him pleaſure, and excited an aſtoniſhment eaſier to conceive than deſcribe. Conſidering it as an engraving, and naturally reflecting that from the ſame copper might be taken an almoſt indefinite number of impreſſions, he determined to quit the pen and take up the graver, as an inſtrument which would enable him to diſſeminate whatever work he could produce, in ſo much wider a circle. This reſolution was no ſooner made, than it was put in execution; for with that ſpirit and perſeverance which he has manifeſted in every ſucceeding ſcene of his life, he, at twenty-one years of age, walked up to the metropolis, and at the age of TWENTY-ONE bound himſelf apprentice for ſeven years to Mr. Toms, the engraver of the print which had ſo forcibly attracted his attention.

Theſe, and accidents equally trifling, ſometimes attract men of ſtrong minds into the path *that leads direct to fame*, and have been generally conſidered as proving that they were born with ſome peculiar genius for ſome peculiar ſtudy; though after all, genius is, perhaps, little more than what a great moraliſt has defined it—"*A mind with ſtrong powers, accidentally directed to ſome particular object*; for it is not eaſy to conceive that a man who can run a given diſtance in a ſhort time with his face to the eaſt, could not do the ſame thing if he turned his face to the weſt." Be this as it may:—It is recorded of Cowley, that by reading Spenſer's "Faerie Queen," he became a poet. Pope ſays of himſelf that

while yet a boy he acquired his firſt taſte for poeſy by the peruſal of Sandys' Ovid and Ogilby's Virgil; Sir Joſhua Reynolds had the firſt fondneſs for his art excited by the peruſal of Richardſon's treatiſe on Painting; and, as we have before obſerved, Mr. Alderman Boydell was induced to learn the art of engraving by the coarſe print of a coarſe artiſt, repreſenting a miſhapen Gothic caſtle.

His conduct, during his apprenticeſhip, was eminently aſſiduous; eager to attain all poſſible knowledge of an art on which his mind was bent, and of every thing that would be uſeful to him; and impelled by an induſtry that ſeems inherent in his nature *, whenever he could, he attended the academy in St. Martin's-lane to perfect himſelf in drawing; his leiſure hours in the evening were devoted to the ſtudy of perſpective, and learning French without the aid of a maſter;—to improve himſelf in the pronunciation of the language he had thus acquired, he regularly attended at the French chapel.

After very ſteadily purſuing his buſineſs for ſix years, finding himſelf a better artiſt than his teacher, he bought from Mr. Toms the laſt year of his apprenticeſhip, and became his own maſter; and

* How ſtriking a contraſt does his conduct form to that of Chatelaine, who was at the ſame period employed by Mr. Toms, and in the ſame workſhop etched and engraved at one ſhilling an hour; but who, with all his taſte and talents, and he had much of both, was ſo diſſipated and idle, that at the expiration of the firſt half-hour he frequently demanded his ſixpence, and retired to a neighbouring alehouſe to expend it.

the

the firſt uſe he made of his freedom was to return into his own country, where he married a very deſerving young perſon to whom he had an early attachment, and with whom he lived many years in great felicity. During his ſtay he ſketched many drawings of different romantic ſpots, and remarkable buildings, in Derbyſhire and Wales *, which he afterwards engraved: but his firſt publication made its appearance in 1745, immediately after he was out of his time, and was entitled *the bridge-book*; it conſiſted of ſix ſmall-ſized landſcapes deſigned and engraved by himſelf, and ſold at a ſhilling. With this the public were pleaſed, and the ſale of it encouraged and enabled him to proceed with vigour in his future works. The paper and printing would now coſt more than the ſum the book was at that time ſold for.

The arts were then at a very low ebb: inferior prints, from poor originals, were almoſt the only works which our Engliſh artiſts were *thought* capable of performing, nor were they (with the exception of the inimitable Hogarth, and two or three more), in general, qualified for much better things. The few people who had a taſte for higher art, gratified themſelves by the purchaſe of Flemiſh and Italian pictures, or French prints; for which, even at that period, the country was drained of very

* Among theſe were a view of the ſtraits in Dovedale, Matlock baths, Cromford, Beeſton-caſtle, Cheſter-caſtle, Conway-caſtle, and Denbigh-caſtle.

large

large ſums of money. This, to a young man, who felt that his own intereſt was hurt, and the nation diſhonoured, and who was conſcious that, with proper encouragement, better things might be done, muſt have been a mortifying proſpect. But though he might lament that the courſe of the ſtream ran ſo much againſt his own and his country's intereſt, his powers did not then enable him to turn the current; he, therefore, for the preſent, followed it, and deſigned and engraved many views of places in and about London; which were generally publiſhed at the low price of one ſhiling each. Beſides theſe, he copied many prints from Vandevelde, Brooking, Berghem, Oſtade, Caſtiglione, Salvator Roſa, &c *.

The facility with which he drew, etched, and managed the dry needle, enabled him to complete a great number of prints; and with a view of ſhewing the improvement of the art ſince the time of their publication, the alderman lately collected the whole into one port folio, and publiſhed it at five guineas †.

In

* Even at this period, he was ſo much alive to fame, that after having paſt ſeveral months in copying an hiſtorical picture of Coriolanus, by Sebaſtian Concha, he ſo much diſliked his own engraving, that he cut the plate to pieces.

† The number of theſe prints, which were drawn and engraved at a time when the artiſt had much other buſineſs to attend to, diſplayed uncommon induſtry; and the manner in which many of them are executed, evince talents, that practice, and his conſtitutional perſeverance, would have rendered highly reſpectable.

In his introduction to this work, he fairly remarks:

"That to the lovers of the fine arts it may be an object of ſome curioſity, as it was from the profits of theſe prints that the engraver of them was firſt enabled to hold out encouragement to young artiſts in this line, and thereby, he flatters himſelf, has ſomewhat contributed to bring the art of engraving in England to ſuch a ſtate of ſuperiority. It may likewiſe be added, that *this is the firſt book that ever made a Lord Mayor of London.* Few men have had the happineſs of ſeeing, in a ſingle lifetime, ſuch a rapid improvement; and the publiſher will be gratified, if in the future hiſtory of the art, his very extenſive undertakings ſhall be thought to have contributed to it. When the ſmallneſs of this work is compared with what has followed, he hopes it will impreſs all young artiſts with the truth of what he has already held out to them—that *induſtry, patience, and perſeverance, united to talents, are certain to ſurmount all difficulties.*"

To return from the alderman's precepts, to his publications—Finding that the taſte for prints encreaſed, and that ſums larger and larger were

able. The man who could engrave ſuch a print as the Medea and Jaſon, from Salvator Roſa—if he had not become the firſt in his profeſſion—muſt have been *in the very firſt line.* The pen and ink drawing of Wrexham-church, ſeveral views in Derbyſhire, &c. and a very correct and ſpirited copy from Hogarth's enraged muſician, are now in the poſſeſſion of Mrs. Nicol, of Pall-mall.

annually

annually drawn out of this country by French artiſts, he ſought for an Engliſh engraver who could equal, if not excel them—and in Woollet he found one. The temple of Apollo from Claude, and two premium pictures by the Smiths of Chicheſter, were among the firſt that he engraved; but the Niobe, and the Phæton, from Wilſon, which were publiſhed by ſubſcription at 5*s*. each, were the two great pillars on which Woollet's well-earned reputation was built. For the firſt of them, the alderman agreed to give the engraver fifty guineas *; and when it was completed he paid him a hundred. The ſecond, the artiſt agreed to paint for fifty guineas, and the alderman paid him one hundred and twenty. *Proof-prints* were not, at that time, conſidered as having any particular value; the few that were taken off to examine the progreſs of the plate, were delivered to ſuch ſubſcribers as wiſhed to have them, at the ſame price as the common impreſſions. Several of theſe have been ſince bought in public auctions, at ten pounds each. At Mr. Hilliard's ſale, one of them ſold for eleven guineas.

The number of fine—of inimitably fine prints, which have been ſince that time engraved in this

* The immenſe difference between the prices paid to artiſts *now* and *then*, is almoſt incredible:—the Meſſrs. Boydells, in their advertiſement to the print of Major Pearſon, aſſert, that painting the picture, engraving the print, and every incidental expence, coſt them the immenſe ſum of five thouſand pounds.

country,

country, have, indiſputably, fixed the Engliſh ſchool above every other in Europe; and been a very important article in the commerce of this nation, by altering the balance immenſely in our favour.

The alderman has not confined himſelf to prints; he has alſo done more towards eſtabliſhing an Engliſh ſchool of hiſtorical painting than any other man: it is hardly neceſſary to ſay, we allude to the Shakſpeare gallery; an undertaking of a magnitude that was never before attempted, and conducted in a manner that muſt aſtoniſh every nation in Europe. With that enthuſiaſtic ardour which he feels for the promotion of the arts, he has preſented to the corporation of the city of London ſeveral very valuable pictures; which are placed in the council chamber, at Guildhall. Some of them are calculated to commemorate the actions of thoſe heroes who have done honour to the Britiſh name*; and others, to impreſs on the minds of the riſing generation the ſentiments of virtue, induſtry, and prudence, in ſeveral very well-imagined allegorical repreſentations, painted by Meſſrs. Rigaud, Smirke, Weſtall, &c. Such is the ſlight memorial of his conduct, as an artiſt and protector of the arts.

On his conduct as a citizen, it is not neceſſary for this page to record any eulogium. In the dif-

* The half length of Lord Heathfield, is, perhaps, the fineſt portrait that Sir Joſhua Reynolds ever painted.

ferent

ferent offices of alderman, ſheriff, and firſt magiſtrate of the city of London, he has acted in a manner that will be remembered, and by many remembered gratefully ;—for though inflexibly juſt, he was ever merciful; and when huſbands came before him, with complaints of their wives; maſters, of their ſervants or apprentices; fathers, of their children; he invariably, and often ſucceſsfully, tried to reconcile them to each other, and accommodate their differences.

To the duties of his office he has ever been peculiarly attentive, and very often, when it was not in his rotation, ſupplied the place of a brother alderman. This, conſidering the great attention neceſſary to his own buſineſs, is no ſlight trouble; but he has been enabled to do it from having generally arranged his buſineſs, ſo as to be before-hand with the duties of the occaſion. In this, his character is diametrically oppoſite to that of the late duke of Newcaſtle; of whom George II. once ſaid, that *he loſt an hour* every morning, and was *running after it* all the reſt of the day.

Of the alderman's ſimplicity of manners, integrity of mind, and private worth, much might be ſaid---but *he lives*---and may his life and health be prolonged, and continue to be honourable to himſelf and uſeful to his fellow-citizens.

MR.

MR. GEORGE DYER.

THE ſubject of this memoir is deſcended from reputable parents; very early in life, he, himſelf, was ſent to Chriſt's hoſpital, a moſt excellent inſtitution, which has furniſhed the univerſities with admirable ſcholars, the church with many learned divines, the navy with able officers; and what, in a commercial nation like this, is no ſmall praiſe, the exchange, with enterpriſing and ſucceſsful merchants.

The youthful ſtudent diſcovered an aſtoniſhing attachment to books; and what, in ſuch an inſtitution, is no trifling diſtinction, is ſaid to have actually got to the top of the ſchool, ſooner than ever was known before his time*. This rare inſtance of aſſiduity, was accompained by a paſſion, which but ſeldom attends on induſtry — a ſtrong propenſity for poetry. Pope, ſpeaking of himſelf, ſays:

> " As yet a child, nor yet a fool to fame,
> " I liſp'd in numbers, for the numbers came."

This ſeems to have been alſo the caſe of George Dyer, with only this difference, that while the one wooed the muſes in his vernacular tongue only, the other had likewiſe recourſe to a foreign idiom, and addreſſed the daughters of Jupiter and Mnemoſyne, in what is ſuppoſed to have been their native lan-

* It may not be amiſs here to obſerve, that his maſters were the Rev. Peter Wholley and Rev. James Penn, both known to the world, as literary men.

guage,

guage. This claſſical taſte, particularly his ardent attachment to the Greek and Latin authors, at length procured him a patron in the perſon of Dr. Aſkew, a phyſician of great fortune, and conſiderable influence; diſtinguiſhed for his knowledge of Greek literature, and his valuable collection of books and MSS. in the ſame language. Pleaſed with the early proficiency, and congenial diſpoſition of the young man, he took an intereſt in his ſtudies, and purſuits; and preſaging that he would diſtinguiſh himſelf at ſome future period, promiſed that he ſhould ſee him amply provided for. But, alas! ſuch is the uncertainty of human life, that this worthy man was cut off ſoon after; and that, too, at a time, when his pupil only beheld the *bloſſoms*, and had not yet realized the *fruits* of expectation.

Notwithſtanding this ſevere loſs, he repaired to Cambridge; and, in conſequence of the connexion above alluded to, choſe Emanuel college, where his friend had been educated.

It may not be improper here to obſerve, that a conſiderable time previous to this epoch, Mr. Dyer acquired ſomewhat of a gloomy caſt of mind, and connected himſelf with many of the ſectaries. In conſequence of this, the claſſics were no longer ſuch favourites as before; *modern* religioniſts were recurred to, in preference to *heathen poets*; and even the ruling paſſion was ſuſpended: for the muſes and methodiſm do not aſſort well together!

During the greater part of his ſtay at Emanuel college, George led a retired life; frequenting only

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the company of ſome few men who happened to think like himſelf. His religious propenſities do not ſeem, however, to have altogether relaxed his ardour for ſtudy, as his application was ſtill conſpicuous: though his mind revolted at the trammels of collegiate diſcipline. This is not at all to be wondered at, when his *favourite purſuits* are recollected; for men of fervid imaginations are unwilling to ſubject themſelves to the rigour of the Alexandrian ſchool: and although Ptolemy, king of Egypt, diſdained not to become the pupil of Euclid, yet but few poets or religioniſts have evinced a turn for mathematics. Indeed, ſuch an averſion is not difficult to be accounted for: this ſublime ſcience is founded on *demonſtration*, and it is not on ſuch a baſis, that either the fancy of the one, or the ſuperſtition of the other, can poſſibly be erected.

Mr. D.'s ſtudies were accordingly confined to Metaphyſics, Theology, and the Claſſics. Some time before he had taken his degree, his mind began to range abroad, and to ſpeculate freely, relative to ſyſtematic chriſtianity, and abſtract enquiries concerning firſt truths. If this propenſity be not unfortunate, it is, at leaſt, *unprofitable*; more eſpecially to a young man like the preſent, all of whoſe hopes in life originated either from his college or the church. The conſequence was, that after a fit of melancholy, the ſtern dictates of principle got the better of all intereſted views, and

the theologian (for ſuch he had now become) determined to overſtep the threſhold of the church.

All golden dreams of preferment being thus blaſted in the very outſet, by the breath of conſcientious ſcruples, Mr. D. naturally turned his mind towards a ſituation, for which he ſeems to have been admirably adapted, both by the excellence of his education, and the placidneſs of his manners. Inſtructed himſelf, he, accordingly, determined to inſtruct others, and for ſome time aſſiſted the Rev. Dr. Grimwood, who then kept a very reſpectable academy at Dedham, in Eſſex, from which he has lately retired.

But he at length determined to return to Cambridge, where he at made an open avowal of his diſſent from the eſtabliſhed church. While at the univerſity, he had become acquainted with a very extraordinary man, the Rev. Robert Robinſon, the apoſtle of the Baptiſts, with whom he for ſome time reſided; at this period, he preached occaſionally in his meeting-houſe, which almoſt faced Emanuel college; he alſo appeared frequently in the pulpits of others of the diſſenting clergy, both at Cambridge, Oxford, &c.

After ſignaliſing himſelf in this manner for ſome time, without any particular adherence to creeds or ſyſtems, Mr. D. at length determined to put a period to his miſſion.

Having repaired to Cambridge, he was encouraged to undertake a work on the ſubſcription to the XXXIX articles of the church of England.

Many

Many of the diſſenters countenanced the plan; and there were not wanting ſeveral even within the walls of the univerſity who encouraged it, ſuch as the Rev. Mr. Tyrwhitt, who actually introduced a grace for the removal of what he conceived to be an intolerable burden; Mr. Hammond, fellow of Queen's, and Mr. Frend, fellow of Jeſus'.

Having now acquired a certain degree of reputation from his "Inquiry into the Nature of Subſcriptions," &c. he determined to try his fortune in London. His firſt occupation in the capital required great memory, and ſome talents; theſe he poſſeſſed, but it was attended with a degree of drudgery that proved intolerable. He accordingly ſoon diſcovered, that the office of reporter of the debates in the Houſe of Commons was unſuitable to his diſpoſition; he therefore quickly relinquiſhed it, and publiſhed a ſecond edition of his book on Subſcription, greatly enlarged and improved. It is a miſcellaneous compoſition, and abounds with politics, theology, metaphyſics, criticiſms on the ſcriptural text, an examination of the fathers, &c. About the ſame time he printed a volume of poems.

Mr. D. now formed an extenſive acquaintance among men of letters, and engaged in the buſineſs of profeſſional criticiſm, being at that time employed in writing for the Reviews, a purſuit he has for ſome time ceaſed to be engaged in; he alſo aſſiſted gentlemen in acquiring, or regaining, their knowledge of the claſſics.

It ſhould be obſerved here, that on his arrival in the metropolis he threw off his black coat, and aſſumed, in all reſpects, a *ſecular appearance*, except in reſpect to his hair, which ſtill ſavoured of the eccleſiaſtical tonſure: he, however, has lived long enough in the world to ſee even this become faſhionable; for, after having been confined for ſome centuries to the clergy, it has been recently adopted by the *beau monde*.

On his coming to town, he found party diſputes and opinions running very high; but although he himſelf had been an orator in the pulpit, and was accuſtomed at times to ſpeak *extempore*, yet he never delivered his ſentiments in any ſociety of the reformers; for he ſeems to have conſidered himſelf in his *political noviciate*, and to have preſerved the reſerve ſo rigorouſly enjoined to the diſciples of the Samian ſage. But, although ſilent himſelf, he may have been ſaid to have, literally, *opened the mouths of others*; as he wrote ſeveral ſongs for political clubs, calculated to promote feſtivity, and relax the brow of care from the fatigues and diſappointments of life.

Soon after the much-dreaded "Rights of Man," which had nearly effected a revolution in the political world, made its appearance, Mr. Dyer publiſhed the firſt edition of "The Complaints of the Poor People of England," with the motto of "fiat juſtitia." This muſt be confeſſed, even at that time, to have been a bold pamphlet; now it would be *intolerable*, and might ſubject publiſher, author,

and,

and, perhaps, printer, to the unfriendly greetings of his Majeſty's attorney-general!

His next work was a treatiſe on the "Theory and Practice of Benevolence," intended as an appendix to the former: it contains ſome facts relative to the ſtate priſoners.

After this followed his "Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Robert Robinſon, late Miniſter of the Diſſenting Congregation, in St. Andrew's Pariſh, Cambridge."

The laſt performance, of any ſize, by Mr. Dyer, appears to be "The Poet's Fate," produced in 1797, in which he traces, in ſome very good lines, the ſufferings and diſtreſſes of the votaries of the muſes, not only in modern, but alſo

——"In ancient times, long ere poor Butler ſigh'd,
"Or dinnerleſs the poliſh'd Lovelace died."

This is to be followed by "Poetic Sympathies."

He has publiſhed, beſides thoſe already enumerated, a Satirical Prologue to the celebrated Latin comedy of Ignoramus, in which he does not ſpare even *lawn ſleeves*, when a proper occaſion offers; and he has lately undertaken to print his poetical works, for which there is the promiſe of a handſome ſubſcription.

On the whole, George Dyer muſt be allowed to be a ſingular character. In order to furniſh his mind with facts, and gratify his eye with a pleaſing romantic ſcenery, he undertook, and actually accompliſhed, a tour, principally, if not wholly, *on foot*, through the moſt intereſting parts of England, Scot-

land, and Wales. No man in this country is more converſant with what may be termed the cradle and the grave of genius—the free-ſchools and the priſons of the iſland, moſt of which he has viſited in perſon. The preſent ſtate of his mind, in reſpect to religion, we are wholly unacquainted with; of all the ancient ſects, however, he ſeems moſt to reſemble the Peripatetics, who placed the *ſummum bonum*, "not in the pleaſures of paſſive ſenſation, but in the due exerciſe of the moral and intellectual faculties." Like them too, he has been accuſtomed to imbibe or retail inſtruction while he walked; and as this country has not, like Athens of old, a *Peripaton*, he frequently indulges in the ſtreet or the public road.

There is another peculiarity obſervable in this gentleman: this conſiſts in the rejection of all titles from his works; for which, he ſays, he has hiſtory, philoſophy, and even Chriſtianity on his ſide. He alſo obſerves very ſhrewdly in one of his publications, "that thoſe artificial diſtinctions which "originated in tyranny, and are perpetuated by "cuſtom, lie at the bottom of many ſerious evils "that exiſt in ſociety."

MR. D'ISRAELI.

THIS gentleman is the only ſon of a reſpectable Italian merchant, who has long reſided in this country,

country, and who is well known and eſteemed upon 'Change.

The early part of his youth was paſſed at the country reſidence of his father at Enfield, where he was ſent to a neighbouring ſchool. Here he learned nothing but a little imperfect Latin; enough, however, to perceive that there were beauties in Virgil and Horace, which his pedagogue could not aſſiſt him in diſcerning and appreciating. After a reſidence of ſeveral years, the affectionate care of his parents ſupplied him with a variety of maſters; but as he revolted againſt the diſcipline of elementary knowledge, it was reſolved that he ſhould be ſent to a private ſeminary in the city of Amſterdam. A year had ſcarcely paſſed under his new tutor, when he became the maſter of his maſter. If he had made no progreſs in claſſical literature, he had now, however, acquired a conſiderable knowledge of all the modern languages; he declaimed paſſages from the plays of the Spaniſh Calderon, the Luciad of the Portugueſe Camoens, the Jeruſalem of Taſſo, and particularly from the Henriade of Voltaire. He formed a paſſionate attachment to the higher claſs of French writers; he felt with all the energy of taſte, the rich imagination and ſeductive periods of Rouſſeau, the pointed and brilliant diction of Voltaire, and the conciſeneſs and delicacy of Monteſquieu.

On returning to his native country, he again retired to the country-houſe of his father. He now indulged more extenſively in an uninterrupted peruſal of authors of taſte. He ſaw, with pleaſure, that he

was neither adapted by nature nor designed by his friends for a commercial life. Having made a tour through France and Italy, he returned with a valuable collection of books, particularly in the French language. He by this time had a confirmed taste for the literature of that refined and volatile people; and, as he has observed, among them he not only found works of taste, not elsewhere to be met with, but a vast resource for the *Materia Literaria* which exists in no other nation.

The earliest performance avowedly by Mr. D'Israel is "A Poetical Epistle on the Abuse of Satire," which was written, we understand, to gratify a certain man of letters, who was his neighbour, and who smarted under the scourge of Peter Pindar. As a first production, it exhibits his poetical talents to considerable advantage. This effusion afterwards procured him the friendship of Dr. Wolcott, who has not only encouraged his poetical efforts, by unequivocal marks of his approbation, but conferred on him still more useful services, by many proofs of his friendship.

In 1790, Mr. D'Israeli made a more formal appearance in public, by addressing a poem, entitled "A Defence of Poetry," to the present laureat. The whole edition, excepting a few copies sold, was burnt by the author; undeservedly, it seems, for the Monthly review of March, 1791, gives it the following character:—

"Mr. D'Israeli is among the few modern poets who have at-
"tained their (the muses) favour; they appear, from the testimony
"before

"before us, to have diſtinguiſhed him from the crowd, and to have "allowed him a plenteous draught from their fountain of inſpir- "ation. He is not without a knowledge of the requiſites of ge- "nuine poetry: his verſification is elegant, flowing, and harmoni- "ous; nor can we read this ſpecimen of his abilities, without per- "ceiving that he has devoted his days and his nights to our im- "mortal Pope."

In 1791, from theſe elevations of poetry, our author deſcended into the humble, but, with him, the agreeable and entertaining path of compilation. The firſt volume of his "Curioſities of Literature" was publiſhed anonymouſly; but the faſcination of public favour induced him to prefix his name to the ſecond. Theſe compilations ſoon became popular, and have been a ſource of numerous imitations. The volumes form a rich repoſitory of literary anecdote, and contain many original and well-written criticiſms. The rapid ſale of three large editions is the beſt proof of the public opinion.

As an original writer, he ſoon afterwards produced his "Diſſertation on Anecdotes," of which work the Critical Review for January, 1794, obſerves, that

"This is an eccenteric, an ingenious, and philoſophical per- "formance. The author, in a very maſterly way, vindicates the de- "tailer of anecdotes from the charge of being a literary trifler, and "his remarks are extremely ſenſible and entertaining; they are "given in a lively ſtrain of reaſoning, and form a very judicious "and curious ſpeculation."

This was followed by his "Eſſay on the Literary Character." The merits of this ingenious and original performance are too generally known to require

require any eulogium in this place, and it certainly ranks firſt among his works.

In 1796, he produced a volume of Miſcellanies; it is not ſo original as his two former productions, but the diction, as uſual, is highly poliſhed, and the anecdotes are uncommon and curious.

His next performance was a philoſophical novel, in two volumes, under the title of "Vaurien." The chief object of this work was to ſatirize certain literary eccentricities and *monſtroſities* which have lately been obtruded upon the public. Some of the game was doubtleſs fair; a few characters were, however, too much overſtrained and caricatured to impreſs every reader with the juſtice of the attack.

He has lately publiſhed a work, which promiſes conſiderably to exalt his reputation as a fine writer. It conſiſts of ſeveral romances, embelliſhed with original poetry.

Mr. D'Iſraeli is unmarried, and at this time about thirty years of age. His habits and connexions are as ſtrictly literary as thoſe of any reſident of the metropolis. Few perſons read and write more; ſcarcely any compoſe with equal rapidity; and, if cloſe application do not injure his health, the execution of ſome of his literary deſigns promiſe conſiderable future gratification to the public.

A. D.

THE

THE REV. DAVID WILLIAMS.

THE life of this gentleman is not barren of incident, for unlike that of moſt men of letters, his has been active and enterprizing; and very few of his movements have been unaccompanied with a correſpondent effect.

Mr. Williams was born in Wales. His father's circumſtances having become ſomewhat embarraſſed, in conſequence of unſucceſsful ſpeculations in mines, he ſought for refuge from the reflections incident to the ſtate into which he had involved himſelf, and numerous family, by flying to the comforts of religion.

He at this time reſided in Glamorganſhire, where his ſon David was born; who, with his other children, was ſent to a neighbouring ſchool for education. Old Mr. Williams, by aſſociating with the methodiſts, had imbibed their principles and enthuſiaſm; and reſolved to train up his ſon to the church, probably intending him for a teacher among his ſect, and, no doubt, expecting him to become one of its ſaints!

David diſcovered lively and promiſing abilities; but ſuch as by no means qualified him for the ſtation deſigned for him, to which, indeed, he had an inſuperable repugnance. Yet a parent's dying injunctions controlled his reſolution, and he went reluctantly through the preparatory forms of education, neceſſary to fit him for the diſſenting miniſtry.

His

His firſt appearance, in the character of a preacher, was at Froome, in Somerſetſhire; where, although he could not conceal the diſlike he entertained to the primneſs and preciſeneſs of the diſſenters; yet he ſoon made himſelf beloved and admired by his congregation. His reputation for abilities ſpread ſo rapidly, that at the age of twenty-two he was invited to Exeter, as the ſucceſſor of two celebrated paſtors; and he underwent the requiſite formalities of ordination, in order to qualify him for the miniſtry in the Arian congregation there.

Soon after this, he embarked in a plan which originated at Liverpool, to introduce a Socinian liturgy among the diſſenters. A ſociety, for this purpoſe, had been founded at the Octagon chapel there, by the perſons who had conceived the deſign; and Mr. Williams ſoon perſuaded his congregation to adopt it: this affords no common inſtance of their attachment to him! In that city he might have lived an eaſy and agreeable life; but he at length became diſguſted at ſome hypocritical ſchemes he had diſcovered, and actually determined to quit the Weſt of England.

On his arrival in London, he received ſome diſtinguiſhed civilities from the diſſenters, and did duty at one of their congregations at Highgate, until he had prepared a plan of education which he meant to carry into practice.

While at Highgate, he preached a courſe of "Sermons on Religious Hypocriſy," which he publiſhed

publiſhed in two volumes, 8vo. In 1770, he wrote a poignant "Letter to Mr. Garrick, on his Conduct and Talents as Manager and Performer;" this was followed by a work called "The Philoſopher," conſiſting of three polemical converſations; with dedications to Lord Mansfield, and the biſhop of Glouceſter.

When a reſpectable body of clergy, chiefly diſſenters, met at the Feathers tavern, to petition for relief in the ſubſcription to the thirty-nine articles, Mr. Williams was applied to, and, at their ſolicitation, drew up ſome "Eſſays on public Worſhip, Patriotiſm, and Projects of Reformation;" which were printed and publiſhed, but are ſaid to contain ſentiments approximating more towards deiſm than his employers wiſhed. An appendix was added afterwards, which is peculiarly ſevere on the conduct of the diſſenters, with whom he afterwards broke off all connexion.

About the year 1773, being then reſident at Chelſea, he brought forward his plan of education, founded on the outline given by Commenius, when he was invited here, to reform the Engliſh ſchools, and whoſe deſign was fruſtrated by the civil wars. Mr. Williams diſtinguiſhed himſelf, on this occaſion, in ſuch a manner, that although he was a ſtranger in the neighbourhood, and his religious tenets lay under ſome imputation among the orthodox, yet he met with great encouragement. The *honorarium* of his pupils, was high; but, notwithſtanding this, their number was conſiderable.

He

He was now in a fair way of making his fortune, and of introducing a more rational and eaſy mode of education; when, at this critical period, he loſt his wife, a loſs, which, notwithſtanding all his philoſophical fortitude, he was unable to ſupport: he accordingly fled both from his habitation and inſtitution, to take ſhelter in a remote part of Derbyſhire, where, for ſome time, he indulged his melancholy.

While at Chelſea, he publiſhed a Treatiſe on Education, in a duodecimo volume; which contains ſome uncommonly acute and judicious remarks on that ſubject, and diſcloſes his ſentiments with reſpect to revealed religion.

During his reſidence there, the celebrated Dr. Franklin, with whom he was intimate, took refuge in his houſe, from the ſtorm he apprehended would follow Mr. Wedderburne's unwarranted attack on him at the council-board; an event which is ſaid to have had more effect towards the criſis which ſoon followed, than can be eaſily imagined. And here, we are aſſured it was that the philoſopher of Penſylvania, concerted with his friend the plan of a deiſtical and philoſophical lecture. This ſcheme was, at length, carried into practice; for on his return to London, Mr. Williams opened a chapel in Margaret ſtreet, Cavendiſh-ſquare, in which he was ſupported by ſeveral perſons of conſequence and fortune, &c. &c. The complexion of his diſcourſes was, however, neither reliſhed by churchmen nor diſſenters; accordingly, although many

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went to hear him, few enrolled their names as members.

While officiating in this capacity, he publiſhed the Inauguration Sermon, two volumes of Lectures on the Univerſal Principles of Religion and Morality, and a Liturgy for the Chapel. Notwithſtanding a variety of obſtacles, he continued his labours, during a period of nearly four years; but as the ſubſcribers did not increaſe, he removed to a private room, where he delivered his opinions before thoſe who ſupported the inſtitution. His ſociety was, indeed, ſmall; but it was as reſpectable as any in England.

Mr. Williams's other publications conſiſt of a pamphlet on "The Nature and Extent of Intellectual Liberty;" "A Plan of Aſſociation, on Conſtitutional Principles," a tract written at the time of the riots in London; "Letters on Political Liberty;" occaſioned by the country meetings and aſſociations, in 1782; "Lectures on Political Principles," "Lectures on Education;" and, a "Hiſtory of Monmouthſhire," in one volume, 4to.

Several anonymous works have been attributed to Mr. Williams, ſuch as "Royal Recollections;" but this is ſo infinitely beneath his abilities, that no one of his friends can allow it to be his. The "Leſſons to a Young Prince," and "An Apology for profeſſing the Religion of Nature in the eighteenth Century," may poſſibly have come from

from his pen, and they are not unworthy of it. Some of the above works, which muſt be allowed to poſſeſs a large ſhare of intrinſic merit, ſhew that Mr. W. had early turned his thoughts to political enquiries; and this important branch of knowledge is ſaid to have been firſt ſuggeſted to his mind, in conſequence of his aſſiſtance having been called for, in ſome parliamentary tranſactions.

His religious and political opinions at length connected him intimately with the popular party in this country, and his celebrity recommended him to the notice of the *Girondiſts* in France, who invited him over to aſſiſt them in the formation of the conſtitution. He was intimately acquainted with Briſſot * while in England; and this journey, which introduced him to the friendſhip of all the great political leaders of the day, was not unaccompanied with ſome perſonal danger: for, as he recommended mercy to the king, the Jacobins branded him with the title of royaliſt, and he was actually denounced as ſuch in their club. Mr. Williams ſaw ſo clearly the deſigns of this faction, and was ſo certain of the reſult, that he foretold to their opponents, when he parted with them,

* Briſſot firſt became acquainted with Mr. Williams in conſequence of the writings of the latter. On his return to his native country, amidſt the turmoils of one of the moſt wonderful revolutions that ever agitated mankind, he conſulted Mr. W. as his oracle, and was forewarned by him of his danger. Had he followed his advice, the preſent ſituation of France, and, indeed, of Europe, might have been more auſpicious!

that,

that, if they did not deſtroy the Jacobins, the Jacobins would ſoon deſtroy them * !

Soon after his return, a very extraordinary inſtance of the offence he had given to a certain quarter occurred. He had been engaged by Mr. Bowyer, of Pall-Mall, to write the Hiſtory of England, from the Revolution to the preſent time; this was deſigned as a continuation of Hume, and was to be ornamented with ſuperb plates. The firſt artiſts in the kingdom were employed on the occaſion, and Mr. Williams's name was announced in the proſpectus, evidently written by himſelf. But this engagement with the public was broken, after the intended author had made every neceſſary arrangement incident to ſo grand an undertaking. In ſhort, he was informed by Mr. Bowyer, that his ſervices *muſt* be diſpenſed with, in conſequence of certain intimations of the diſpleaſure of a great perſonage! Mr. Bowyer, however, found that a compromiſe was neceſſary to protect him from a ſuit in chancery.

We

* The celebrated Madame Roland ſpeaks highly of the political talents of Mr. Williams, in many parts of her very animated work.

" Paine," ſays ſhe, " is better calculated to produce a revolu-
" tion, than to aſſiſt in the formation of a conſtitution. He ſeizes,
" he eſtabliſhes, thoſe grand principles, the expoſition of which
" ſtrikes every one at firſt ſight, raviſhes a club, and produces en-
" thuſiaſm at a tavern; but for the cool diſcuſſion of a committee,
" for the connected labours of the legiſlator, I conſider

DAVID WILLIAMS

" as infinitely more proper.

We have now detailed ſome of the events, by which the life of this extraordinary man has been marked. What his employment may be at preſent is not generally known, but he ſtill continues to diſtinguiſh himſelf by his laudable exertions in ſupport of a moſt uſeful inſtitution, "The Literary Fund," of which he is ſaid to be the founder.

Againſt ſo bold, ſo manly, and ſo able an advocate in behalf of civil and religious liberty, much malignity has occaſionally been diſplayed; to deprecate ſuch malignity, or defend him from the attacks of the enemies of ſuch principles, would be ſuperfluous, becauſe it would be unneceſſary. We leave the friend of Franklin, and Roland, to defend himſelf, whenever an aſſailant ſhall appear worthy of ſuch a conteſt.

"Williams, although, like him, created a French citizen, was
"not nominated to the convention, where he would have proved
"infinitely more uſeful. But the government invited him to
"Paris, where he paſſed ſome months, and converſed often
"with the principal deputies.

"A ſage thinker, a real friend to mankind, he appeared to me
"to combine their modes of happineſs, as well as Paine deſcribed
"thoſe evils that conſtituted their miſery."

DOCTOR

DOCTOR JOHN DOUGLAS,

BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

THIS prelate, who is a native of Scotland, has been long celebrated both in the clerical and literary world. He was educated at Chriſt-church, Oxford, of which college he was a ſtudent in 1738, and having taken orders, ſettled in Shropſhire. During his reſidence there, he publiſhed "Milton vindicated" (1748). In this work, he detected the *forgery* of LAUDER, a learned Scotſman; who not content with pointing out a number of paſſages in the writings of *Maſenius*, and other modern Latin poets, which Milton appeared to have imitated in his *Paradiſe Loſt*; had the wickedneſs to tranſlate about *forty lines*—(*in all*) from Milton's work into Latin,—to aſcribe theſe tranſlated lines, to *his* modern Latin poets,—and to repreſent Milton as having originally ſtolen them, with mean and groſs plagiariſm. The forgery was baſe; yet the Engliſh were ſtill *willing* to regard every ſyllable of Milton's poem, as flowing from original poetical inſpiration. The pretended detection of his plagiariſms, excited among them emotions of general ſhame and rage. The Whigs, the enthuſiaſtic admirers of Milton's politics, as well as of his muſe, regarded Lauder's publication, as a contrivance of the Scottiſh Jacobites; for *their* confuſion, Douglas ſeaſonably diſ-

covered an inaccuracy in one of Lauder's quotations. He purſued the inveſtigation, and luckily detected the forgery. Lauder ſunk before him, and was overwhelmed with odium and ignominy. Douglas derived from this incident the firſt riſe of his fortunes. The Engliſh thought, they could never be too grateful for ſo ſeaſonable a ſupport of their poetical idol.—After all, it muſt be owned, that *Lauder*'s erudition and acuteneſs were ſuperior to thoſe of his opponent; and that his plan of tracing, in the authors which Milton muſt have read, the ſources of ſome of his excellencies, was that of a judicious and even philoſophical critic.

Dr. D. next entered the liſts with Archibald Bower, who pretended to have been a commiſſioner of the holy inquiſition at Macerata. Bower proved a more doughty adverſary than Lauder; accuſed Douglas, as the creature of the Engliſh Jeſuits, who had orders, from their ſuperiors, to ruin Bower's reputation in England, denied the charges which were urged againſt him; and defended himſelf with a flow of virulent and ſuperlatively abuſive language which has ſcarcely ever been equalled in controverſy.

Douglas continued to riſe in reputation, and to gain new friends. In 1754, he publiſhed "Criterion," an anſwer to David Hume on miracles, which is now forgotten. His firſt work had recommended him to the learned, the laſt to the religious world; and about the year 1760, he began to reap the benefit they entitled him to, for he was then

appointed

appointed one of the king's chaplains. In 1762, he was nominated one of the canons of Windsor: and was soon after presented to the united livings of St. Austin and St. Faith, in London.

Among the many friends Dr. Douglas had made, was the late Lord Bath, who bequeathed him his library. But General Pulteney being unwilling to part with it out of the family, paid him the full value, and on his death, about three years after, left it once more to him. From Windsor, our divine was, in 1776, removed to be a canon of St. Paul's; and after possessing that canonry about twelve years, he was, in 1788, advanced to the Deanry of Windsor.

In these situations, the Doctor not only enlarged his circle of friends among the great, but was introduced to the notice of the king and queen, and acquired a considerable degree of royal favour. He was next raised to the episcopal bench, on the death of Dr. Law, Bishop of Carlisle, and on the translation of Dr. Barrington to Durham, in 1791, he was translated to Salisbury; by the possession of which see, he has become chancellor of the order of the garter.

The episcopal character of Dr. Douglas is a subject of universal admiration, while benevolence and candour distinguish him in private life. Regular in the discharge of the duties of his high station, he commands the love and respect of his diocese. In short, as a dignified clergyman and scholar, a gentleman and a christian, he is equally respected, and admired

When the ſhips ſent out on diſcovery under Captain Cook returned, Doctor Douglas was appointed to inſpect and arrange the journals; and the admired introduction prefixed to that work is the offspring of his pen.

The doctor was a member of the Literary Club in Eſſex-ſtreet, inſtituted by Dr. Johnſon, Murphy, &c. Z.

LORD NELSON.

IT is not without reaſon that conſiderate men are ſometimes unwilling to relate the hiſtory of *living* perſons, ſince it is evident that a *faithful* narrative, under ſuch circumſtances, is an undertaking of peculiar delicacy.—To awaken intereſt and emulation, without being either minute or partial—and to ſatisfy the reader of a biographical memoir, without offending the ſubject of it, or violating the laws of truth, are objects whoſe value are only proportionate to their difficulty.—Particulars relating to men who have eminently ſerved their country, can ſcarcely fail to excite attention.—If they are communicated with accuracy and ſpirit, they will alſo excite pleaſure.

Of all the ſervices which the Engliſh, as a nation, receive, thoſe they derive from their navy are the moſt laſting and acceptable.—The public are ſenſible of this.—The courage and generoſity

of our ſeamen are ſubjects of honourable boaſt in the mouths of Britons.—Commendation for ſuch virtues is not the reſult of undue partiality, but of gratitude and juſtice; it is a debt due to merit, and one that we pay with ſatisfaction.

Rear admiral, now Lord Nelſon, to whom his country is indebted for his brilliant ſervices, is a younger ſon of the Rev. Mr. Nelſon, rector of Burnham-Thorpe, in the county of Norfolk; in the parſonage-houſe of which pariſh he was born, September 29th, 1758. His father's family came originally from Hilborough in the ſame county, where they poſſeſſed a ſmall patrimony, and the patronage of the living. His mother was Miſs Suckling, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Suckling, of Suffolk; grand-daughter of the late Sir Charles Turner, of Warham, in the county of Norfolk, bart. by his lady, the ſiſter of Sir Robert Walpole.

Captain Suckling, his lordſhip's maternal uncle, was his early and very valuable friend. He was an officer in the ſea ſervice; and commanded firſt the Raiſonnable of ſixty-four guns, then the Triumph, and died comptroller of the navy.—This gentleman married a ſiſter of the preſent amiable Lord Walpole, and was frequently in Norfolk. He took young Nelſon, at twelve years of age, from North Walſham ſchool, in the ſame county, and entered him, under himſelf, as midſhipman on board his own ſhip. Here his lordſhip ſerved ſome time, together with the *valuable* officer

who now commands her, Captain Charles Boyles, his friend and neighbour; and from this ship the two young men removed into the Triumph, when Captain Suckling obtained the command of her. June 4th, 1773, he embarked under the command of the Hon. Captain Phipps, afterwards Lord Mulgrave, on a voyage of discovery towards the North Pole, which added greatly to his stock of knowledge. April the 10th, 1777, his lordship was made lieutenant, and sent out by his uncle, Captain Suckling, to Sir Peter Parker, who then commanded on the Jamaica station. Shortly after this, young Nelson was appointed master and commander. On the 11th of June, 1779, he became post captain; and, at the conclusion of the American war, returned home. But he did not long continue inactive. Soon after his return, he was sent out in the Boreas frigate to the Leeward Islands, and had under him his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, who commanded the Pegasus.

On this station, his lordship is said to have rendered a signal service to his highness, for which he afterwards honoured him with his friendship. It was also upon this station, and, we believe, about this time, that Lord Nelson contracted a matrimonial alliance, with Mrs. Nesbit of Nevis, widow of Dr. Nesbit, physician, and niece to the governor of the island; and when the marriage ceremony was celebrated, it is said that his royal highness gave away the bride. And here it would be unpardonable

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not to mention a report which does honour to the admiral's integrity, and nice ſenſe of honour. Mr. Herbert, governor of the iſland, was extremely rich, and had an only daughter, who was to have inherited her father's fortunes. By marrying, however, without his conſent, ſhe diſobliged him, and was on the point of being diſinherited in favour of his niece. The admiral, with a generous diſregard to private intereſt, interfered in this buſineſs, and had the pleaſure, before his marriage, of reſtoring the daughter to her parent's affection, and the fortune to its natural channel.

Whilſt his lordſhip continued upon this ſtation, he had under him a ſmall ſquadron of frigates, and was particularly active in ſuppreſſing ſmuggling, a practice but too prevalent in thoſe ſeas. This vigilance was acceptable to all parties, *except the ſmugglers and their friends*; who threatened, and would actually have involved him in expenſive litigations, had not the admiralty interfered to reſcue him from their malice.

In a profeſſion like the ſea ſervice, calculated to make heroes, by enuring the mind to difficulty, and enterprize, it would be unjuſt to extol the merits of one character, at the expence of others equally deſerving: yet the praiſe which is appropriate, cannot fairly be withheld.—The triumph of that glorious day, when Earl St. Vincent, with a far inferior force, beat the Spaniſh fleet off cape St. Vincent, and captured four of their large ſhips, will not eaſily be forgotten by Engliſhmen: and of

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that triumph, no inconſiderable ſhare belongs to Nelſon*.—The San Joſeph and the San Nicholas, both veſſels of ſuperior force, ſtruck to him; the former of which he entered ſword in hand, with a degree of courage, amounting almoſt to enthuſiaſm. He preſented the ſword of the Spaniſh Admiral, which he received upon the quarter-deck, and which the Spaniard refuſed to deliver to any but himſelf, to the corporation of Norwich; as he has done, lately, that of the French Admiral, Monſ. Blanquet, to the corporation of London.—In conſequence of the action off cape St. Vincent, his lordſhip was created Knight of the Bath, and, about the ſame time, Rear Admiral of the blue.

Upon quitting the Weſt Indies, he returned to his native country; and as there was no immediate call for his ſervices, retired, with Lady Nelſon, to the parſonage-houſe at Burnham; which his father gave up to him, preferring a reſidence in the neighbourhood. In this retreat his lordſhip, for ſome time, led a quiet, domeſtic life; inclined, like Gil Blas, at Llyrias, to write over the door of his cottage;

" Inveni portum. Spes & fortuna valete
" Sat me luſiſtes: ludite nunc alios:"

and, like him, alſo determined to return into the world, when more active ſcenes demanded his attendance.

* The action was fought Feb. 14th, 1797.—The Britiſh force conſiſted of fifteen ſail of the line; the Spaniſh of twenty-ſeven, moſtly of ſuperior rates.

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The admiral has no family by his lady. But there is a ſon of Lady Nelſon, by a former marriage (Mr. Neſbit), who has ſerved under his lordſhip, through the whole of the preſent war, and is now a poſt-captain. Excluſive of his wife, and her ſon, Lord Nelſon has now living, of his near relations—firſt, his father, who reſides near Ipſwich; next, his eldeſt brother, Maurice, a clerk in the navy-office; two brothers, clergymen; the firſt, William, rector of Hilborough, and Suckling, rector of Burnham-*Sutton*; alſo two ſiſters, both of whom are married.

Upon the breaking out of the preſent war, his lordſhip was immediately appointed to the command of the Agamemnon, of ſixty-four guns; although it has been ſaid, that he had ſome difficulty in getting a ſhip. Of this ſhip's company, a conſiderable part was raiſed in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk; and, not a few, in his own neighbourhood. The general opinion of his conduct and abilities, as an officer, was ſuch, that gentlemen were deſirous to place their ſons under his command; and ſome, of conſiderable reſpectability, ſolicited and obtained this favour. In particular, the Rev. Mr. Bolton, his relation; and the Rev. Meſſrs Hoſte, and Wetherhead, his friends, were permitted to enter their ſons midſhipmen on board the Agamemnon.—And, it muſt be admitted, that if they wiſhed to give their ſons an inſight into their profeſſion, founded upon practice and example, they could not have ſelected a fitter maſter.—Young Wetherhead fell nobly at

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the unfortunate buſineſs of Santa Cruz: the others continue with his lordſhip, and have merited his eſteem.

From the commencement of the war, to the preſent moment, the public are in poſſeſſion of the general outlines of Lord Nelſon's life.—During a conſiderable part of the time he commanded the Agamemnon in the Mediterranean, ſcarcely a Gazette appeared, but it contained an account of ſome ſervice performed;—ſome gallantry diſplayed;—ſome enterprize undertaken*.—If a merchantman was to be cut out of harbour, or a battery to be diſmounted, his lordſhip generally placed himſelf in "the hotteſt battle," and expoſed his perſon to the ſame riſk as the meaneſt ſeaman.—Such voluntary contempt of danger, although it be not always either prudent, or juſtifiable, in a commander, is yet certainly generous, and often ſucceſsful.—Men will do more, and with greater alacrity, when they find that nothing is required on one hand, but what, with a due allowance for circumſtances, is ſubmitted to on the other: and, great advantages will juſtify great hazard†.

In eſtimating the ſervices of Lord Nelſon, it is not an individual achievement that we admire; in

* At the ſiege of Baſtia in 1794, he commanded a battery on ſhore, and loſt an eye on the occaſion.

† Extreme prudence will make men *ſafe*, but it will never make them *great*.—Alexander, Cæſar, Pompey, and Mark Anthony, were frequently forced to hazard much; and often in a bad cauſe.

which,

which, perhaps, good fortune had, at leaſt, as much ſhare, as good conduct: but it is a ſeries of ſucceſſes, for the moſt part, planned with judgment, and executed with ſpirit. "Some men, ſays Lord Bacon, *follow* Fortune, others *lead* her."* The Admiral appears to adopt the laſt plan: and acts wiſely: becauſe Fortune is *blind*, and wants a guide.

The glorious battle of the Nile, for which Nelſon has recently been rewarded with a peerage, has already been ſo minutely deſcribed, that it is ſuperfluous to enlarge upon the ſubject. It will ſtand upon record, as a convincing proof of what Britiſh ſailors, commanded by able officers, can effect, in hazardous enterprizes. The modeſty and good ſenſe of the Admiral, in deſcribing this action, cannot be too much commended.—In the ſplendor of a great victory, our eyes are too apt to be turned upon the Hero of the piece, without conſidering the ſubordinate characters that have contributed to the drama. Upon this baſis the main foundation of tragic, and epic poetry, reſts: the poet draws off our attention from the fortunes of the vulgar, to

* The following extract has been communicated from the journal of an ingenious friend, and we infert it, becauſe it ſerves to ſhew, that the Admiral is not a *mere* favourite of Fortune: but that he has always been a man of conduct, as well as of enterprize.

———"Fort San Juan, on the Spaniſh main, ſurrendered to the Britiſh arms, April, 1780. The detachment on the ſervice was commanded by Capt. Polſon, of the ſixtieth regiment, who gives great praiſe to Capt. *Nelſon* of the Hinchinbroke frigate, who was with him on this ſervice."

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the fate of the great: "Arma *virumque* cano," &c. This diſpoſition, however, or rather this weakneſs, the Admiral has endeavoured to correct in his own perſon by the impartial, and judicious praiſes he beſtows upon every individual of his fleet, in his letter of the 3d of Auguſt, 1798, to the commander-in-chief, giving an account of the engagement.

But it is not in the conduct of a fleet *alone*, or in the liberality with which he approves, that Lord Nelſon is ſeen to advantage. There appears to be ſomething of the ſtateſman in him, as well as of the commander. After the battle of the Nile, he did that,—which Pompey after the battle of Dirrachium, and the Chriſtian confederates after that of Lepanto, omitted to do; and ſuffered for their omiſſion:—he made the beſt uſe of his victory. The Britiſh Government in India, had taken the alarm at the progreſs of the French in the Mediterranean. Immediately after the action, the Admiral diſpatched a meſſenger over land to Bombay with intelligence of the victory. He alſo communicated the news to the principal Cabinets of the Continent, and revived their drooping ſpirits. He left Commodore Trowbridge, upon the coaſt of Egypt, with ſix ſail of the line, to burn the enemy's tranſports, and to intercept their ſuccours; —and he took poſſeſſion of an iſland in the enemy's van, fortified with mortars and cannon, which had conſiderably annoyed his fleet in action.

The celebrity which Lord Nelſon has acquired

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by his ſervices, has added another laurel to the honours of a country already diſtinguiſhed for the eminent characters it has given to the ſtate. We are told, in the hiſtory of Norfolk, that at the little village of Cockthorpe, not far from Burnham, three ſeamen of immortal fame were born:—namely, Sir John Narborough, Sir Cloudeſley Shovel, and Sir Chriſtopher Mims.

When men have raiſed themſelves, by their abilities, to any unexpected elevation in the order of ſociety, we naturally enquire,—what have been their habits in domeſtic life?—For, though the *great* man may be ſeen in the buſtle of the world, it has truly been obſerved, that the *good* man is beſt ſeen in private. Piety, or a juſt ſenſe of the ſuperintending providence of Almighty God, that virtue of the mind, without which all others are but "as duſt and aſhes,"—has conſiderable influence on Lord Nelſon's mind. This may be collected, as well from the general habits of his life, as from the inſtructions iſſued to his fleet, immediately after the battle of Aboukir. Theſe inſtructions we ſhall beg leave to tranſcribe from the ingenious publication of an officer of the ſquadron. They run thus—

"MEM. "*Vanguard, off the Mouth of the Nile, 2d day of Auguſt*, 1798.

"Almighty God having bleſſed his Majeſty's arms with vic-
"tory, the Admiral intends returning public thankſgiving for
"the ſame at two o'clock this day, and he recommends every
"ſhip doing the ſame as ſoon as convenient.

"To the reſpective Captains of the ſquadron.

"At

"At two o'clock, accordingly, on that day, public ſervice was "performed on the quarter-deck of the Vanguard, by the Rev. "Mr. Comyn, the other ſhips following the example of the Ad- "miral, though, perhaps, not all at the ſame time. This ſolemn "act of gratitude to Heaven ſeemed to make a very deep im- "preſſion upon ſeveral of the priſoners, both officers and men, "ſome of the former of whom remarked,—that it was no wonder "we could preſerve ſuch order and diſcipline, when we could "impreſs the minds of our men, with ſuch ſentiments after a "victory ſo great, and at a moment of ſuch ſeeming confuſion.

"On the ſame day, the following memorandum was iſſued "to all the ſhips, expreſſive of the Admiral's ſentiments of the "noble exertions of the different officers and men of his "ſquadron.

"*Vanguard, off the Mouth of the Nile, 2d of Auguſt*, 1798.

"The Admiral moſt heartily congratulates the Captains, "Officers, Seamen, and Marines, of the ſquadron he has the ho- "nour to command, on the event of the late action; and he de- "ſires they will accept his moſt ſincere and cordial thanks for "their very gallant behaviour in this glorious battle. It muſt "ſtrike forcibly every Britiſh ſeaman, how ſuperior their con- "duct is, when in diſcipline and good order, to the riotous be- "haviour of lawleſs Frenchmen. The ſquadron may be aſſured "the Admiral will not fail, in his diſpatches, to repreſent "their truly meritorious conduct in the ſtrongeſt terms to the "Commander-in-chief."

"To the Captains of the ſhips of the ſquadron."

We here ſee what the Admiral's ſentiments of duty were, as an officer, and a public character: we will next conſider what they were as a private man. In the domeſtic relations of life, his conduct appears to have been entirely unexceptionable. His tenderneſs, and affection, for his wife, are be-

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yond diſpute; and his attention to his father was always remarkable. The old gentleman had a practice, when the weather permitted, of walking for an hour before dinner: the Admiral, however engaged, ſcarcely ever failed attending upon theſe occaſions.

When, after the unfortunate attempt on Santa Cruz, his Lordſhip lay ill, in conſequence of the amputation of his right arm *, and it was ſtill uncertain what the event might be, it is ſaid, that his principal anxiety was about his relations, rather than himſelf; and that he wrote to the Admiralty with his left hand, recommending Mr. Neſbit to their patronage, in caſe he died.

Nor is his attachment to relations ſtronger than his regard for ſtrangers in diſtreſs †. He appears to entertain a juſt ſenſe of benevolence, in its various branches: particular inſtances of which might readily be adduced, did the limits of this article permit. His feelings of private friendſhip are warm, and quick; ſo warm indeed, that he has been known to ſhed tears, at meeting an old friend unexpectedly, upon returning from a diſtant climate. To ſome, theſe circumſtances may poſſibly appear

* When Lord Nelſon received the wound that ſhattered his right arm, he was in a boat, and held a ſword that had been given him by his uncle, Captain Suckling, which he prized highly. Upon this occaſion, he had the good fortune to ſave it from falling into the water, by catching it with his left hand. This circumſtance is ſaid to have given him peculiar pleaſure.

† The noble Admiral, laſt winter, ſent down a large collection of blankets to his native village, to be diſtributed among the poor.

trivial and inconſiſtent with the dignity of hiſtory; while to others, no leſs diſcerning, they will aſſuredly be intereſting; becauſe they diſplay feelings inſeparable from true magnanimity; and, give the beſt inſight into a great character.

AUSONIUS.

LORD MONBODDO.

JAMES BURNET, Lord Monboddo, is a deſcendant from an ancient family in the ſhire of Kincardine. He received his education at a Scottiſh univerſity, at a time when an undiſtinguiſhing enthuſiaſm for all that bore the name of the claſſical literature of Greece and Rome, was much more predominant than it is at preſent, in Scotland. Chooſing to embrace the profeſſion of a lawyer; he paſſed, ſucceſsfully, through the ordinary courſe of preliminary, juridical ſtudies; and was, in due time, received a Member of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh.

From early youth, his application to his literary and juridical ſtudies, was ſeverely diligent. Between claſſical literature and the law of Scotland, there exiſts a ſtrong connexion, ariſing from the adoption of the forms and maxims of the civil law of the Romans, into the authority almoſt of another Law of Nature, by the ancient legiſlators and judges of the Scots. Accordingly, while Mr. Burnet roſe into reputation, as a lawyer; he, at the ſame time,

time, improved into profound erudition, that knowledge of the Greek and Roman Authors, which he had acquired at the ſchool and the univerſity. By the more intimate ſtudy of theſe authors, his firſt predilection and reverence for them, were continually enhanced. He learned, as *a man of taſte*, to regard the philoſophy and eloquence of Plato, of Ariſtotle, of Demoſthenes, with the ſame veneration with which he had accuſtomed himſelf, as *a lawyer*, to view the Code of Theodoſius or the Inſtitute of Juſtinian. While his enthuſiaſtic admiration of the literature of Antiquity, increaſed; his opinion of the degeneracy and comparative meanneſs of all that was modern, proceeded, by degrees, to ſupreme contempt, and unutterable diſguſt.

Nor was this progreſs of his literary partialities, in any way, ſtrange or unaccountable. Thoſe books, from which he formed his judgement of the excellence of the literature of antiquity, were certainly among the moſt perfect productions of human genius. But, they were commentators, and verbal critics, and reporters in the Scottiſh law, and crabbed theologians, and monkiſh hiſtorians, and ſcholaſtic metaphyſicians, who, at that time, compoſed the aſſemblage of his literary acquaintance among the writers of modern times. His preposſeſſions were therefore immoveably rooted, before he had been led to give to the beſt and moſt captivating advocates for the moderns, a fair hearing.

In the mean time, the progreſs of his profeſſional

life advanced him to ſhare thoſe higher honours and emoluments which are acceſſible to the Scottiſh Advocate. His family was reſpectable. He enjoyed a ſmall patrimonial eſtate, and ſome ſhare of political intereſt. He was eſteemed as a lawyer. He was honoured as a man of incorruptible integrity, utterly incapable of permitting any other conſideration to prevail, in his breaſt, over the ſacred regard ever due to juſtice. In the year 1767, he obtained a Judges' ſeat, on the bench of the Scottiſh Court of Seſſion. During thoſe many years which have, ſince, elapſed, he has continued to diſcharge the duties of that high office, with an aſſiduity, a patience, a clear intelligence, and an uprightneſs, which do honour even to juſtice herſelf.

Of the truth of this praiſe, we may mention one ſtriking proof. The *Court of Seſſion* is the higheſt Court known in Scotland, for deciſion in *civil* cauſes. Every ſuit or litigation, may be brought before this court, by appeal from the inferior judicatures: And there are few actions too petty, to be proſecuted before it, even in the firſt inſtance. The buſineſs of the court, is, in conſequence, almoſt too great and multifarious to be regularly diſpatched without an inconſiderate haſte, by which the ends of juſtice might be defeated. On this account, it is a rule, for at leaſt one of the judges, under the title of LORD ORDINARY, to ſit alone, in an outer chamber, on the uſual days of buſineſs, for the purpoſe of hearing and determining in all cauſes at their firſt introduction into this court: Nor is it, till

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after *three* ſucceſſive ſentences, or *inter locutors*, ſhall have been pronounced in it by the *Lord Ordinary*, and ſtill without ſatisfying one or another of the parties, that a cauſe may be, at laſt argued before the whole court of ſeſſion. Very much of the moſt laborious buſineſs of the court, is, therefore, tranſacted by the judges, acting ſucceſſively in the capacity of *Lord Ordinary*. The lawyers and their clients are exceedingly anxious, in every fair and honeſtly-intended ſuit, to bring it before one of the judges as *Lord Ordinary*, who is the moſt upright, the moſt patient, the moſt conſcientiouſly aſſiduous; who is the moſt profound as a lawyer, and poſſeſſes the moſt of that ſtrong ſenſe and vigorous diſcernment, which are the beſt qualities for diſentangling right and expediency from whatever perplexities they may be involved in.—Now, ever ſince *Lord Monboddo* was raiſed to the bench, there has been a remarkable ſolicitude among the practiſing lawyers and their clients, to commence their actions at law before him, as *Lord Ordinary*, in preference to almoſt any other of his brother-judges. A more ſtriking proof of reſpect for the abilities, the integrity, and the faithful diligence of a judge, could not be eaſily produced.

In the mean time, the courſe of his ſtudies led him to attempt the compoſition of a work, which might raiſe his name to diſtinction among men of Letters. This was juſt the period when Scotſmen began to think, that, notwithſtanding the barbarous incorrectneſs of their native dialect, they might aſ-

pire, with fair hopes, to eminence, in Engliſh literature. *Elegance! elegance! elegance!* was the general cry. The *Latin* was diſcarded from being the language of the *Lectures* in the univerſities. Claſſical erudition and profound reſearch were conceived to be utterly incompatible with the power of happy compoſition in a modern language: What was called *Fine Writing*; and an originality of philoſophical genius, to be diſplayed in the propoſition and the defence of paradoxes; were eſteemed to be the only things, to which the praiſe of literary or ſcientific excellence, could be juſtly due: It was by the imitation of the moſt elaborately finiſhed productions of French philoſophy and eloquence, that the Scots hoped to rival the beſt writings of their Engliſh neighbours. David Hume, Lord Kaimes, Dr. William Robertſon, James Macpherſon, Dr. Adam Fergusſon, Gilbert Stuart, even Adam Smith, were all of one ſchool, of which theſe were the literary principles. To be a profound ſcholar in the recondite parts of Greek and Roman literature, was ſuppoſed a qualification which none but a dull man would uſe the pains to acquire. The logic of Ariſtotle was exploded, as a vain gibberiſh; the philoſophy of Plato, as the wild dreams of an enthuſiaſt. *Monteſquieu*, *Voltaire*, *Boſſuet* the model of Robertſon's imitation, and a few other French writers, with ſome favourite Engliſh ones, were fancied to have engroſſed every deſirable literary excellence. A mechanical elegance was, with finical anxiety, ſtudied, which materially differed, in its forms,

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from that elegance which has been exemplified by ſome of the moſt admired writers of antiquity. Triplets, alliteration, ſhort periods inceſſantly breaking the continuity of the ſenſe, a flippancy of wit and a viſible affectation of ornament little known to the ancients, maxims of buſineſs and of philoſophy abſolutely at war with thoſe of antiquity, were the *dulcia vitia* which Monboddo beheld his literary contemporaries of Scotland, admire and cultivate the moſt paſſionately.

This ſacrilegious contempt of the philoſophy and literature of the ancients, naturally provoked the warmeſt indignation of Lord Monboddo, their ardent admirer. Indignation, conſpiring with his former enthuſiaſm for antiquity, exalted that temper of mind to a pitch of the higheſt extravagance. All modern excellence, whether in language, in compoſition, in moral, or even in phyſical, ſcience, appeared to him but the weakneſs and preſumptuous folly of the human intellect dwindling down towards abſolute fatuity. He reſolved, that his firſt work ſhould afford, to the confuſion and aſtoniſhment of the moderns, a complete vindication of the wiſdom and eloquence of his admired ancients. The firſt volumes of his ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF LANGUAGE, were, in conſequence of this reſolution, at length, given to the Public.

Theſe volumes were peruſed by critics, with ſentiments of mingled reſpect, ridicule, and indignation. With the philoſophical hiſtory of language, his plan neceſſarily involved that of

civility and knowledge. He carried his reſearches to a time remote beyond the records of hiſtory, when men might be ſuppoſed to poſſeſs no means of the vocal communication of their thoughts, but natural and inarticulate ſounds. Abſtracting, in imagination, from the rational ſuperiority of *Man*, whatever ſeems to depend on his uſe of artificial language, as a ſign of thought; he repreſented the earlier generations of the human race, as having been little, if at all, exalted in intelligence, above the ape and the *Ouran-Outang*, whoſe form bears a reſemblance to the human. The ſpirit of paradox, or ſomething better, even inclined him to believe, that thoſe rude men who wanted articulate language, muſt have had tails; of which they might gradually diveſt themſelves, either by attentions to the breed, like thoſe of a *Cully*, or a *Bakewell*,—or by continually *docking*, till the tail was utterly extirpated, even in the progeny. With Rouſſeau, he viewed, with envy, many of the advantages of ſavage life. Tracing, more ſlightly, the progreſs of language in the Eaſt,—and the origin of alphabetical writing from the continual abbreviation of the Hieroglyphics of Egypt, as it had been explained by Warburton; he eagerly advanced to the analyſis and hiſtory of the language of the ancient Greeks. So perfect in all the excellencies of ſpeech, did this language appear to him; that he could not conceive it to have been produced by the gradual uſes of ſocial life; but ſuppoſed it to have been a grand ſyſtem, formed by the conſenting labours of philoſophers.

phers. Its confuſion of dialects; its anomalous modes and tenſes; all the irregularities in the ſtructure of many of its verbs; appeared to be only ſo many perfections of order and beauty. As there muſt be a relation between the outline of the body, and the clothes which are becomingly fitted upon it; as there is a neceſſary connexion between ſpeech and the thoughts which are conveyed in it; ſo Lord Monboddo, the more he contemplated the language of Grecian eloquence and ſcience, was ſo much the more moved to admire all the knowledge of which it had been made the vehicle, as the conſummate perfection of human wiſdom. The philoſophy of Plato and of Ariſtotle, dwelling among thoſe primary ideas of which human things were but the faint, imperfect reſemblances, appeared to him to exhibit the *meditations of Gods*: The philoſophy of a Bacon, a Newton, and the reſt of the moderns, trifling among the phœnomena of material nature, ſeemed, as it were, but the *play*, or the ſilly *conjectures*, of ſo many *children*. The periods of a mile, the particles whoſe import might elude the diſcovery of the moſt expert grammarians, *connectives* exceeding the number of the *ſubſtantives* and *attributives* with which they were aſſociated, the endleſs involution of ſentence within ſentence, and whatever other forms in compoſition, familiar to the ancient Greeks, had begun to be rejected by his contemporaries, —theſe Lord Monboddo fondly praiſed, and ſtrove to imitate, as the eſſential ingredients of literary elegance. The peculiarities of modern eloquence,

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he condemned, as ſo many wretched barbariſms. Allying himſelf, in the enthuſiaſm of his heated imagination, more with the ancients whom he loved and admired, than with the moderns among whom he was fated to live; he treated every thing in which theſe laſt were concerned, with a haughty contempt, which might ſeem to imply an overweening preference of himſelf to all his contemporaries.

Thoſe critics who were partial to modern literature, on account of their ignorance of that of antiquity; or who, though not unacquainted with the more popular of the ancient authors, were, however, ſtrangers to the deeper myſteries of Greek erudition; condemned Lord Monboddo's work, with bitter and contemptuous cenſure. The Scottiſh literati, almoſt to a man, declared it to be unworthy of peruſal, with any other view, than to be amuſed by its ridiculous abſurdity. *Gilbert Stuart*, full of the arrogant confidence of youthful genius; and, in writing, fond of all thoſe peculiarities of the moderns, which Lord Monboddo had the moſt zealouſly reprobated; attacked his book, in a Review that was then publiſhed at Edinburgh, with all the fierce malignity of a Portugueſe inquiſitor enjoying the ſufferings of a detected Jew; or of an American ſavage putting his captive to death, amidſt every refinement of torture. It was, in general, agreed to regard Monboddo's learning as pedantic; his taſte as groſs and fantaſtic; his ſtyle of writing, as uncouth and barbarous; his ſpeculations as unphiloſophical.

phical. Nothing, it was ſaid, but the ſtrange abſurdity of his opinions, could have hindered his book from falling dead-born from the preſs.

In England, however, its reception was ſomewhat leſs unpropitious to the author's hopes. Here, the influence of the plan of education at the Free Schools, and particularly in the Univerſity of Oxford, ſtill maintained a fond reverence for claſſical literature, and for whatever was allied to it. The author of the *Origin and Progreſs of Language* ſeemed a true ſcholar of the Engliſh ſchool. For the ſake of his erudition, his claſſical enthuſiaſm, and his partiality for the old Engliſh writers, in preference to the French, many of the blemiſhes and peculiarities of his book, were to find a ready pardon. Had he not ſacrilegiouſly preſumed to arraign the merits of a Bacon and a Newton; he might, perhaps, have attained, for a time, to the rank of a favourite among the Engliſh. In the late Mr. Harris, of Malmeſbury, he found an admirer and literary friend, who was himſelf deeply verſant in Grecian learning and philoſophy, and was exceedingly delighted to meet with one that had cultivated theſe ſtudies with equal ardour, and worſhipped the excellence of the ancient Greeks, as far above all other excellence. At Oxford, indeed, upon a viſit which Lord Monboddo paid to that famous univerſity; while he, for the credit of his erudition, endeavoured to converſe in Latin; he committed ſome unlucky blunders, in pronunciation and *ſyllabic* quantity; which are ſaid to have quite

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aſtoniſhed the Oxford-men, and to have conſiderably lowered the high opinion they had, before, conceived of his claſſical erudition.

Lord Monboddo heard all the opinions of the critics, with much the ſame temper, with which a French beau of the old court, might hear any remarks upon his perſonal appearance and accompliſhments. Every ſentiment of diſapprobation that was uttered againſt him, he attributed to ignorance, to taſteleſſneſs, to the degeneracy of the literature of the age, or to ſome worſe quality in the mind of the critic. But, for every expreſſion of applauſe or eſteem, with which his book was honoured, he thanked his own talents, taſte, and profound philoſophical erudition, which, wherever they were judged before a competent tribunal, muſt, of neceſſity, command unbounded approbation. If revenge could gratify the heart of a grammarian and a philoſopher, he had ſoon an opportunity to ſee ample vengeance inflicted on *Gilbert Stuart* and his Review. A proſecution for ſcandal being, by certain perſons, ſecretly excited againſt the proprietors of the Review, on account of an article, that had appeared in it; the publiſhers were condemned to pay coſts and damages to the proſecutor; and were ſo diſcouraged, that they reſolved to abandon the publication. On the bench, when this cauſe was tried, Lord Monboddo could not help betraying ſo much of an offended author's ſoreneſs of feelings; as to declare, how much thoſe reviewers had abuſed himſelf; and to expreſs

expreſs his earneſt ſatisfaction in aſſiſting to make them the ſubjects of a ſentence, by which the malignant aſperity of their criticiſm would be puniſhed, and probably repreſſed. He had, alſo, the pleaſure to know, that his book obtained a reaſonable ſale, and that its fame ſerved conſiderably to increaſe his perſonal celebrity. His enemies, indeed, pleaſed themſelves with aſcribing this ſale of the book, and this growing celebrity of the author, not to any genuine merits in the one or the other, but to the odd abſurdity of his opinions, and to a fantaſtic ſingularity in his habits of life, ariſing from them.

His private life was ſpent in the practice of all the ſocial virtues, and in the enjoyment of much domeſtic felicity. He had married Miſs *Farquharſon*, a very amiable woman, by whom he had a ſon and two daughters. Although rigidly temperate in his habits of life, he, however, delighted much in the convivial ſociety of his friends: And among theſe he could number almoſt all the moſt eminent of thoſe who were diſtinguiſhed in Scotland for virtue, literature, or genuine elegance of converſation and manners. One of thoſe who eſteemed him the moſt highly, was the late Lord *Gardenſtone*; a man who, though his propenſities to ſenſual pleaſure, and his habits of diſſipation, were very different from the ſanctity of the manners of Monboddo; poſſeſſed, however, no mean portion of the ſame overflowing benignity of diſpoſition, the ſame unimpeachable

impeachable integrity as a judge, the ſame partial fondneſs for literature and for the fine arts. His ſon, a very promiſing boy, in whoſe education he took great delight, was, indeed, ſnatched away from his affections by a premature death: But, when it was too late for ſorrow and anxiety to avail, the afflicted father ſtifled the emotions of nature in his breaſt, and wound up the energies of his ſoul to the firmeſt tone of Stoical fortitude. He was, in like manner, bereaved of his excellent lady, the object of his deareſt tenderneſs: and he endured the loſs with a ſimilar firmneſs, fitted to do honour either to philoſophy or to religion.

In addition to his office, as a judge in the ſupreme Civil Court, in Scotland; an offer was made to him of a ſeat in the Court of Juſticiary, the ſupreme criminal court. But, though the emoluments of this place would have made a convenient addition to his income, he refuſed to accept it; leſt its buſineſs ſhould too much detach him from the purſuit of his favourite ſtudies. His patrimonial eſtate was ſmall; not affording a revenue of more than three hundred pounds a year. Yet, he would not raiſe the rents; would never diſmiſs a poor old tenant, for the ſake of any augmentation of emolument offered by a richer ſtranger; and, indeed, ſhewed no particular ſolicitude to accompliſh any improvement upon his lands,—ſave that of having the number of perſons who ſhould reſide upon them, as tenants, and be there ſuſtained by their produce,—to be, if poſſible, ſuperior to

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the population of any equal portion of the lands of his neighbours.

The vacations of the Court of Seſſion, afforded him leiſure to retire every year, in Spring and in Autumn, to the country: And he uſed, then, to dreſs in a ſtyle of ſimplicity, as if he had been only a plain farmer; and to live among the people upon his eſtate, with all the kind familiarity and attention of an aged father among his grown-up children. It was there he had the pleaſure of receiving Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON, with his friend James Boſwell, at the time when theſe two gentlemen were upon their well-known journey through the Highlands of Scotland. JOHNSON admired nothing in literature, ſo much, as the diſplay of a keen diſcrimination of human character, a juſt apprehenſion of the principles of moral action, and that vigorous common-ſenſe which is the moſt happily applicable to the ordinary conduct of life. Monboddo delighted in the refinements, the ſubtleties, the abſtractions, the affectations of literature; and in compariſon with theſe, deſpiſed the groſſneſs of modern taſte, and of common affairs. Johnſon thought learning and ſcience to be little valuable, except ſo far as they could be made ſubſervient to the purpoſes of living uſefully and happily with the world, upon its own terms. Monboddo's favourite ſcience taught him to look down with contempt, upon all ſublunary, and eſpecially upon all modern, things; and to fit life to literature and philoſophy, not literature and

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philoſophy to life. James Boſwell, therefore, in carrying Johnſon to viſit Monboddo, probably thought of *pitting* them one againſt another, as two game-cocks, and promiſed himſelf much ſport from the colloquial conteſt which he expected to enſue between them. But Monboddo was too hoſpitable and courteous, to enter into keen contention with a ſtranger, in his own houſe. There was much talk between them, but no angry controverſy, no exaſperation of that diſlike for each other's well-known peculiarities with which they had met. JOHNSON, it is true, ſtill continued to think Lord Monboddo, what he called *a prig* in literature.

To unfold and to vindicate the principles of the Grecian philoſophy, more fully than could be conveniently done in his book on the Origin and Progreſs of Language; Lord Monboddo engaged in the compoſition of a work, under the title of *Ancient Metaphyſics*. His expreſs object, in this work, was, to diſplay the philoſophy of Ariſtotle and of Plato, concerning thoſe primary and general principles, which embrace alike all the ſubordinate diviſions of human knowledge;—to the utter confuſion of Hume and his followers, who had endeavoured to puſh the ideal philoſophy into an inconceivable ſcepticiſm;—and no leſs of Reid and Beattie, and the other doughty opponents of Hume; who had laboured entirely to explode that philoſophy, as fit only to be an engine of miſchief; and had choſen rather to appeal, for the origin and the certainty

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of all our knowledge, to the uncertain feelings, and the inaccurate unphiloſophical language, of men in common life. It muſt, indeed, be confeſſed, that no philoſopher of modern times, no logician, no naturaliſt, no botaniſt, no chymiſt, has outdone, in his arrangements, the excellence of the arrangements of Ariſtotle. It muſt be owned, that the ſubtlety, and the arch ſimplicity, of the Socratic reaſonings upon the morality and the expediencies of human action, has ſcarcely ever yet been equalled. It is, likewiſe, true, that the theories of the moderns, concerning the general principles of moral ſcience, are, at leaſt, as remote from genuine ſcientific truth, as thoſe of the ancients; and even that the moderns have added much leſs than was to be expected, to the detail of the moral phenomena of ſocial life. But, in this work of Lord Monboddo's, ancient metaphyſical ſcience appears more genuine, indeed, and leſs ſophiſticated, but almoſt equally uncouth and abſtruſe, as in the volumes of the Monkiſh Schoolmen. Both Monboddo and his friend Harris have too often miſtaken the peculiarities of the exterior form, for the eſſence, of ancient philoſophy. Its *hidden ſoul** has eluded their graſp. For the pure virgin-ore, they preſent to us all the impurities of the *gangue*. Their partiality to the very blemiſhes of that philoſophy, has hindered them from diſcerning, and doing juſtice to, its genuine excellence. Mon-

* Untwiſting all the chains that tie
The *hidden ſoul* of harmony. MILTON.

boddo's *Ancient Metaphyſics*, diſtinguiſhed by almoſt all the ſame faults, and the ſame merits, as his book on the Origin and Progreſs of Language, has never become even ſo popular as this laſt work: For who would read it, but the profound ſcholar, who will do much better to ſtudy what it teaches, in the original writings of Plato, Ariſtotle, and Xenophon?

On his viſits to London, Lord Monboddo met with ſo many more men of profound erudition, than he had opportunity to converſe with, at the places of his ordinary reſidence; that a journey to the capital became a very favourite amuſement of his periods of vacation from the buſineſs of the court to which he belonged. For a while, he accuſtomed himſelf to make this journey, once a year. A carriage, a vehicle that was not in common uſe among the ancients, he conſidered as an engine of effeminacy and ſloth, which it was diſgraceful for a man to make uſe of, in travelling. To be dragged at the tail of a horſe, inſtead of mounting upon his back,—ſeemed, in his eyes, to be a truly ludicrous degradation of the genuine dignity of human nature. In all his journies, therefore, between Edinburgh and London, he was wont to ride on horſeback, with a ſingle ſervant attending him. He continued this practice, without finding it too fatiguing for his ſtrength, till he was between eighty and ninety years of age. Within theſe few years, on his return from a laſt viſit, which he made of purpoſe to take leave, before his

his death, of all his old friends in London, he became exceedingly ill upon the road; was unable to proceed; and had he not been overtaken by a Scottiſh friend, who prevailed with him to travel, for the remainder of the way, in a carriage; he might, perhaps, have actually periſhed by the way ſide, or breathed his laſt in ſome dirty inn. Since that time, he has not again attempted an equeſtrian journey to London.

In London, his viſits were exceedingly acceptable to all his friends, whether of the literary or the faſhionable world. He was ſuch an amiable humouriſt; oddity and whim were, in his character, ſo intereſtingly aſſociated with learning, ingenuity, and virtue, that it was impoſſible not to be greatly pleaſed and amuſed with his perſonal appearance, his manners, and his converſation. He delighted to ſhew himſelf at Court: And the King is ſaid to have taken a pleaſure in converſing with the old man, with a diſtinguiſhing notice that could not but be very flattering to him. He uſed to mingle, with great ſatisfaction, with the learned and the ingenious, at the houſe of Mrs. Montague. However, after the death of his friend Mr. Harris, he found a very ſenſible diminution of the pleaſure he had been wont to enjoy in the ſociety of London.

A conſtitution of body, naturally framed to wear well and laſt long, was ſtrengthened to Lord Monboddo, by exerciſe, guarded by temperance, and by a tenor of mind too firm to be deeply

broken in upon by thoſe paſſions which conſume the principles of life. In the country, he has always uſed much the exereiſes of walking in the open air, and of riding. The cold bath is a mean of preſerving the health, to which he has recourſe in all ſeaſons, amid every ſeverity of the weather, under every inconvenience of indiſpoſition or buſineſs, with a perſeverance invincible. He has been accuſtomed, alike in winter and in ſummer, to riſe from bed at a very early hour in the morning, and, without loſs of time, to betake himſelf to ſtudy or wholeſome exerciſe. It is ſaid, that he has even found the uſe of what he calls the *air-bath*, or the practice of *occaſionally walking about, for ſome minutes, naked, in a room filled with freſh and cool air*, to be highly ſalutary. With ſome of the ancient legiſlators, with ſome ſavage tribes whoſe uſages have become known to us; and with Mr. *Locke*, as that philoſopher has explained his ſentiments in his Treatiſe on Education; Lord Monboddo believes, that the conſtitution of the human body,—even when it is ſickly and feeble,—but much more when it poſſeſſes a natural ſoundneſs, of ſome force to reſiſt the invaſion of diſeaſe,—is to be invigorated and beſt preſerved in health,—by expoſure to want, fatigue, inclemency of weather, and to all thoſe viciſſitudes of enjoyment and endurance which are uſually accounted dangerous,—not by that tender care, luxurious maintenance, and anxiety of precaution, which, in this effeminate age, are ſo generally deemed neceſſary.

His

His eldeſt daughter became, many years ſince, the wife of *Kirkpatrick Williamſon*, Eſq. a gentleman who holds a reſpectable office in the Court of Seſſion, and is univerſally beloved and eſteemed.—His ſecond daughter, in perſonal lovelineſs one of the fineſt women of the age, was beheld, in every public place, with general admiration, and was ſought in marriage by many ſuitors. Her mind was endowed with all her father's benevolence of temper, and with all his taſte for elegant literature, without any portion of his whims, or humourift prepoſſeſſions. It was her chief delight, to be the nurſe and the companion of her father's declining age. It is ſhe who is elegantly praiſed in one of the papers of the MIRROR, as rejecting the moſt flattering and advantageous opportunities of ſettlement in marriage, that ſhe might amuſe a father's lonelineſs, nurſe the ſickly infirmity of his age, and cheer him with all the tender cares of filial affection and ſelf-denial. Her preſence contributed to draw around him, in his houſe, and at his table, all that was truly reſpectable among the youth. She mingled in the world of faſhion, without ſharing its follies; and heard thoſe flatteries which are there addreſſed to youth and beauty, without being betrayed to that light and ſelfiſh vanity which is often the only ſentiment that fills the heart of the high-praiſed beauty. She delighted in reading, in literary converſation, in poetry, and in the fine arts, without contracting, from this taſte, any of that pedantic ſelf-conceit and affectation which

uſually characterize literary ladies, and whoſe preſence never fails to frighten away the domeſtic virtues, the graces, the delicacies, and all the more intereſting charms of the ſex. When Burns, the well-known Scottiſh poet, firſt arrived from the plough in Ayrſhire, to publiſh his poems in Edinburgh, there were none by whom he was more zealouſly patronized, than by Lord Monboddo and his lovely daughter. No man's feelings were ever more powerfully or more exquiſitely alive, than thoſe of the ruſtic bard, to the emotions of gratitude, or to the admiration of the good and the fair. In a poem which he at that time wrote, as a panygerical addreſs to Edinburgh, he took occaſion to celebrate the beauty and excellence of Miſs Burnet, in, perhaps, the fineſt ſtanza of the whole:

" Thy daughters bright thy walks adorn,
" Gay as the gilded ſummer ſky,
" Sweet as the dewy milk-white thorn,
" Dear as the raptur'd thrill of joy!

" Fair B—— ſtrikes th' adoring eye;
" Heav'n's beauties on my fancy ſhine;
" I ſee the *Sire of Love* on high,
" And own his work, indeed, divine!"

She was the ornament of the elegant ſociety of the city in which ſhe reſided, her father's pride, and the comfort of his domeſtic life in his declining years. Every amiable and every noble ſentiment was familiar to her heart; every female virtue was exemplified in her life. Yet, this woman, thus lovely, thus elegant, thus wiſe and virtuous; whoſe

life

life, for the conſolation of her father, ſhould have been prolonged till ſhe had cloſed his dying eyes in peace; who, for a bleſſing to ſociety, ſhould have been ſpared, till ſhe had ſet the ſame example in the diſcharge of the duties of a wife and a mother which ſhe had exhibited in performing thoſe of a daughter;——this woman was to be cut off in the flower of her age, and to leave her father bereft of the laſt tender tie which bound him to ſociety and to life! She died about ſix years ſince, of a conſumption, a diſeaſe that, in Scotland, proves too often fatal to the loveliеſt and moſt promiſing among the fair and the young. Neither his philoſophy, nor the neceſſary torpor of the feelings of extreme old age, could hinder Lord Monboddo from being very deeply afflicted by ſo grievous a loſs. From that time, he began to droop exceedingly in his health and ſpirits. His life is yet prolonged, not without the diſcharge of its duties, and ſome reliſh for its ſatisfactions. But, it is not poſſible, that the world can now be to him what it was before. And, though his mind may ſtill retain much of its former ſtrength, yet his bodily frame is now, at laſt, declining into extreme imbecility.

Of thoſe perſons who have been diſtinguiſhed, in Scotland, for literature, among Lord Monboddo's contemporaries, many of the moſt amiable and elegant have been accuſtomed to frequent his houſe, to enjoy his patronage, and to liſten with the reſpect of diſciples, to his converſation. That

pious, wife, and amiable man, the late Dr. *Thomas Blacklock*,—who, under the disadvantages of blindness, from early infancy, had attained to high eminence in poetry, in music, in classical, and in ethical knowledge,—used, to the very last period of his life, to be a frequent and welcome guest at Lord Monboddo's table, and to enjoy his lordship's conversation with a very high relish. Professor *Hunter*, of the university of St. Andrews, the Editor of the *almost immaculate* ST. ANDREW'S CLASSICS,—an erudite scholar, who, to be numbered with the *Parrs*, the *Porsons*, and the *Heynes* of the age,—perhaps to be ranked at the very head of them,—wants only to be more extensively known,—was initiated in deep erudition while he acted as Lord Monboddo's secretary, was promoted to his professorship by his lordship's interest, and has ever since continued to venerate him equally as his master and his patron. The late Lord *Elliock*, also,—one of the ablest Greek scholars of the age,—who formed one of the finest libraries in Britain, which remains in the possession of his successor, Colonel Veitch of Elliock, and in selection, if not in number, might well deserve to be compared with the Pinellian and the Harleian libraries,—lived in habits of great literary and convivial intimacy with Lord Monboddo. When the eloquent and interesting DUGALD STUART first began to lecture upon *Moral Philosophy*, in the university of Edinburgh; though he found it necessary, for the sake of his students,

to

to notice with cenſure, ſome of Lord Monboddo's favourite opinions; yet his lordſhip took great pleaſure in attending, as an occaſional auditor, in his claſs-room, and in remarking the extraordinary promiſe of talents fitted to enlighten and adorn the age, which Mr. Stuart even then exhibited. Dr. *James Gregory*, in whoſe character true worth and original genius, not without a certain daſh of intereſting eccentricity, are combined, perhaps in as ample a proportion, as they were ever beſtowed in, upon any of the ſons of men,—is another of Lord Monboddo's younger friends, who ſtill fondly cultivates the venerable old man's intimacy, and delights to cheer his declining years with frequent and reſpectful attentions. Mr. *Andrew Dalziel*, too, the very learned profeſſor of Greek, in the univerſity of Edinburgh; and who is remarkable for writing *Latin proſe*, with a correctneſs and a delicacy unequalled among his contemporaries, at home or abroad; has long been among the favourite friends of Lord Monboddo; and takes pleaſure to diſcuſs with his lordſhip, in converſation, thoſe many diſcoveries with which his ſtudies, from time to time, enrich the province of erudition; and which he can communicate only by epiſtolary correſpondence, to his illuſtrious friend and admirer, the celebrated *Heyne*, of Gottingen,—the Coryphæus of Greek and Roman literature among the Germans.

Lord Monboddo ſtill continues to amuſe himſelf with

with his wonted ſtudies. It is not long ſince he publiſhed an additional volume of his *Origin and Progreſs of Language*, in which he diſcovers all his ancient partialities to be ſtill unchanged. He is now a very old man; and the ſtate of his health is extremely feeble. The attentions of his worthy ſon-in-law, and ſurviving daughter, and the preſence of his amiable grand-children, contribute greatly to cheer the evening of his life. Nothing but extraordinary indiſpoſition, is allowed to detain him from the diſcharge of his duty in the Court of Seſſion. He retains all his wonted charity and benignity of ſpirit. He is underſtood to have neither augmented nor impaired his paternal eſtate. Seldom will the world behold, again, ſuch a compound of genius, worth, erudition, and odd enthuſiaſtic prepoſſeſſions, as his character exhibits.

LORD VISCOUNT HOOD,

ADMIRAL OF THE BLUE.

THE ſpirit of the chriſtian religion is manifeſtly averſe to war, but notwithſtanding this, certain it is, no claſs of the community has produced a greater number of naval and military officers than the clergy of Great Britain.

The ſubject of this article was born in Somerſetſhire, and his father was firſt vicar of Butleigh, in that county, and then rector of Thornecombe, in Devonſhire. His place of reſidence and eduea-

tion,

tion, after he had grown up, being in a maritime ſituation, probably gave him a taſte for a ſeafaring life; and his propenſity to that calling being irreſiſtible, he was ſtationed on the quarter deck of a man-of-war, and entered on the books as a midſhipman. Happening to ſerve under Admiral Smith, who ſat as preſident of the famous court-martial on the unfortunate Byng, he attained the rank of lieutenant, by his patronage, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf, on various occaſions, by his perſonal intrepidity: in conſequence of one act of gallantry in particular, he received a wound in the hand, but happily effected his purpoſe, which was the moſt deſperate an officer can be employed in—that of cutting out and capturing a veſſel belonging to the enemy, by means of an armed boat.

In the beginning of the memorable conteſt, denominated from the period of its duration *the ſeven years' war*, he was promoted to the rank of poſt-captain, and ſoon after obtained the Veſtal, a frigate of thirty-two guns. Having left Portſmouth, on the 13th of February, 1759, under Admiral Holmes, and happening to be to windward, he deſcried the Bellona, a French veſſel of equal force, commanded by Count Beauhonoir, on this, Captain Hood inſtantly made ſail *a-head*, came to cloſe quarters, and commenced and continued an action of nearly four hours' duration, which ended in the capture of his antagoniſt.

On

On this occaſion, he certainly had the advantage over the enemy, in what is emphatically termed a *clean ſhip*, juſt out of port, while the count's had been abſent many months from Europe, and was then on her return from Martinico, which had been attacked by an Engliſh ſquadron, and ſoon after ſurrendered to his Majeſty's arms. This, however, was conſidered as ſo gallant an action, that the famous circumnavigator, Lord Anſon, then at the head of the admiralty, preſented the young captain to George II. and he had the command of the Africa of ſixty-four guns immediately conferred upon him, as a reward for his conduct.

On the peace of Paris, Captain Hood, with a crowd of other brave ſea-officers, as well as the veſſels they had commanded, were *laid up in ordinary*. He, however, had the good fortune to be moored in a very proſperous birth; for knowing that intereſt in times of tranquillity was to the full as good as merit during hoſtilities, and induced, no doubt, alſo by the ſtill more powerful ſeductions of love and attachment, he had contrived, in 1753, to form a matrimonial alliance with Miſs Suſanna Lindzee, daughter of the Mayor of Plymouth, a gentleman who poſſeſſed great intereſt in the corporation. By this lady he had a ſon, born in the courſe of the ſucceeding year, who is now the Honorable Captain Hood, an officer not inferior to his father in point of bravery and enterprize, and who has

diſtinguiſhed

diſtinguiſhed himſelf very eminently in the courſe of the preſent war, by the ſeaman-like conduct he diſplayed in eſcaping from the batteries of Toulon, the port of which he had entered under the idea of its being ſtill in the poſſeſſion of the Engliſh.

When the unfortunate conteſt took place with America, the ſubject of theſe memoirs accepted a command, and it is not a little memorable, that but one * military, and no one naval officer, ſeemed to think it either unconſtitutional or unjuſt. In November, 1768, we find him on the Boſton ſtation, and it is much to his honour, that while General Gage, and many others, were deceiving the nation and the miniſtry, about the quiet and peaceable diſpoſition of the inhabitants in general, and anticipating the ſpeedy puniſhment of Waſhington, Adams, Hancock, &c. then denominated "rebels," but now recognized by recent treaties among "our good and faithful allies," he boldly and manfully told the truth, and deſcribed the colonies as in a ſtate of ferment and diſſatisfaction, not eaſily to be quieted.

In a ſhort time, France, governed by the uſual policy of ſtates, and deeming this a fair opportunity, by diſmembering the colonies, to leſſen the ſtrength and diminiſh the reſources of Great Britain, determined to exert herſelf in behalf of

* Lord Effingham, afterwards governor of Jamaica.

America;

America; and ſoon after the capture of General Burgoyne, Louis XVI. entered into a commercial treaty with that power, then aſpiring to attain the independence which it had meditated and proclaimed. On this, the king of England withdrew his ambaſſador from Verſailles, and declared war.

The dominions of France being ſuppoſed moſt vulnerable in the extremities, it was determined to ſend a powerful fleet to the Weſt-Indies. Sir Samuel Hood, now an admiral*, and a baronet, went thither, and ſoon diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his intrepidity and ſkill, particularly in Baſſe Terre road, St. Chriſtopher's, February, 1782; when, with an inferior fleet, he foiled the Count de Graſſe. That officer, who began to be celebrated, in conſequence of his exploits in America, intended to make a deſcent on Barbadoes, the oldeſt of our ſettlements in the Weſt-Indies; but being driven to leeward by the currents, he determined to attack St. Kitt's, at which place he had arrived with twenty-nine two-deckers; on this the Engliſh ſquadron, conſiſting of only twenty-two large ſhips, formed a line of battle, and manœuvred in ſuch a manner as to entice the French admiral to quit the anchorage, which was inſtantly occupied by his more dexterous antagoniſt. Next morning, Sir Samuel was attacked by the whole French fleet, but he gave them ſo warm a

* He received his flag in 1780.

reception,

reception, that they were ſoon obliged to ſheer off *. Notwithſtanding this ſervice, and the prediction of the Engliſh commander reſpecting the defence of Brimſtone Hill, St. Kitt's ſoon after ſurrendered to General Bouille, then a moſt enterpriſing commander, and now an emigrant in this country.

In the important victory of the 12th of April, of the ſame year, which would have been ſtill more memorable in the annals of Great Britain, had it not been eclipſed by the brilliant achievments of a more recent period, we find Admiral Hood acting as ſecond in command; and it is thus that Sir George Brydges Rodney, Bart. commander-in-chief, ſpeaks of his ſervices in his diſpatches, dated Formidable, April 14th, 1782.

"It has pleaſed God, out of his divine providence, to grant "to his majeſty's arms a moſt complete victory over the fleets "of his enemies, commanded by Count de Graſſe, who is "himſelf captured, with the Ville de Paris, and four other ſhips, "beſides one ſunk in the action.

"Both fleets have greatly ſuffered; but it is with the higheſt "ſatisfaction I can aſſure their lordſhips, that though the "maſts, ſails, rigging, and hulls of the Britiſh fleet are da-"maged, yet the loſs of men has been ſmall, conſidering the "length of the battle, and the cloſe action they ſo long ſuſtain-"ed,

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* "Many of the French ſhips muſt have ſuffered very con-"ſiderably, and the Ville de Paris was upon the heel all the "next day, covering her ſhot-holes. By information from "the ſhore, the French ſhips have ſent to St. Euſtatius up-"wards of 1000 wounded men."

Extract of a letter from Sir S. Hood, Bart. to Mr. Stephens of the Admiralty.

"ed, and in which both fleets looked upon the honour of their "king and country to be moſt eſſentially concerned. The "great ſupply of naval ſtores lately arrived in the Weſt-"Indies, will, I flatter myſelf, ſoon repair all the damages his "majeſty's fleet has ſuſtained.

"*The gallant behaviour of the officers and men of the fleet I have* "*the honour to command, has been ſuch as muſt for ever endear them* "*to all the lovers of their king and country. The noble behaviour* "*of my ſecond in command,* SIR SAMUEL HOOD, *Bart.* * *who in* "*both actions moſt conſpicuouſly exerted himſelf, demands my warm-*"*eſt encomiums. My third in command, Rear Admiral Drake, who* "*with his diviſion led the battle on the 12th, deſerves the higheſt* "*praiſe,* &c.

Immediately after the engagement, Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, to whom the French Admiral had ſtruck his colours, was diſpatched by Sir George to the Mona Paſſage, in order to intercept ſuch of the enemy's ſquadron as might endeavour to eſcape in that direction. In conſequence of this, he captured two line-of-battle ſhips, and two frigates, on the 9th of April, 1782, with the loſs of only ſix killed and fourteen wounded; and on the commander-in-chief's repairing to Port-Royal harbour, in Jamaica, with the enemy's ſhips, and ſuch of his own ſquadron as were crip-

* Sir Samuel, on this occaſion, led the van diviſion, conſiſting of the Royal Oak, Alfred, Montague, Yarmouth, Valiant, Barfleur, Monarch, Warrior, Belliqueux, Centaur, Magnificent, and William. He himſelf was ſtationed on board the Barfleur of 90 guns; his own captain was Knight; the other captains were Burnett, who led the whole on the ſtarboard tack, and Bayne, Bowen, Parry, Goodall, Reynolds, Wallace (Sir James), Sutherland, Inglefield, Linzee, and Wilſon.

pled;

pled, he left his ſecond, with all the men-of-war capable of keeping the ſea, amounting to about twenty-five ſail of the line, off Cape François, in St. Domingo, with a view to watch the enemy's motions, and prevent any further hoſtile movements on their part.

The peace, that ſoon after enſued, once more interrupted the profeſſional exertions of Admiral Hood; he was now decorated, however, with Iriſh honours, and launched by the miniſtry on the ocean of politics. Sir George Rodney having been created an Engliſh baron, a vacancy for Weſtminſter enſued, and it was fondly hoped that the tide of popularity would ſet in ſo ſtrong in that city, which is the uſual reſidence of royalty, that Lord Hood would be returned without difficulty; this, however, proved fallacious, and his ſon experienced the mortification of being obliged to withdraw his father's name.

At the diſſolution of parliament, in 1784, the conduct of the coalition miniſtry had ſo thoroughly diſguſted the nation, that his lordſhip once more ſtarted, and that too under more fortunate auſpices; for we find that during the memorable ſtruggle, in which Sir Cecil Wray and Mr. Fox were rival candidates, the name of the gallant admiral ſtood at the head of the poll. In 1788 he vacated, on being appointed a Lord of the admiralty, and loſt his election againſt Lord John Townſend: however, in 1790, he recovered his ſeat for that city.

In the ſucceeding parliament he alſo repreſented the ſame conſtituents; but they were ſo diſappointed in reſpect to his exertions, and ſo thoroughly diſguſted with his attachment to the miniſtry, in oppoſition to their declared ſentiments, that, at the laſt general election, he deemed it prudent to accept of a peerage, inſtead of an elective ſeat in parliament; and adminiſtration having thus ſecured him an honourable retreat, they immediately put another of their naval adherents into nomination, who, after a celebrated conteſt, proved finally ſucceſsful.

No ſooner had a war with France taken place, than the eyes of the people and the cabinet were directed towards the moſt able commanders in the naval ſervice, and fixed in particular on Lord Hood. That nobleman was accordingly placed at the head of a powerful fleet, and ſent to the Mediterranean. France, at this moment, was diſtracted by civil broils, and a grand effort was now made by the Engliſh miniſtry, in conjunction with the royaliſts of the ſouth, to diſmember the empire, or at leaſt to deſtroy one of her grand naval arſenals. We accordingly find Admiral Lord Hood taking poſſeſſion of Toulon, and holding it for ſeveral months. It was deſtined, however, that a ſudden change of fortune ſhould reſtore the ſecond ſea-port to the republic. Accordingly, that place being inveſted, General O'Hara, the governor, who had made a *ſortie*, was unfortunately

wounded,

wounded, and taken priſoner; and Lord Hood's diſpatch from on board the Victory, announcing this event, was blamed for being leſs delicate than the occaſion required. Soon after this the troops under General Dugommier ſtormed and took the heights, and ſuch was the reſolution of the beſieging army, and the conduct of Ricard, Freron, Barras, and Robeſpierre, jun. joined to the ſkill of young Buonaparte, then acting as an engineer, that the town ſoon ceaſed to be tenable.

In conſequence of this event, it was at length determined to evacuate the place; and as it would have been cruel to have left ſuch of the natives as had preferred the dominion of England to that of their own country, the men-of-war were crowded with the wretched inhabitants; and on board the Robust alone, although ſhe is but a third rate, about 2,300 of them were brought off.

On this occaſion, ten ſail of the linæ in the harbour, and three ſail of the line on the ſtocks, were deſtroyed, * under the directions of Sir Sid-

* Here follows a ſummary of the particulars of that celebrated event:

Burnt - - -	15
Eſcaped the flames -	8
Brought off by Lord Hood -	3
Burnt at Leghorn (Le Scipio)	1
Sent to Breſt with refractory ſeamen	4
Total	31

N.B. The French aſſert that ſeveral men-of-war, ſuppoſed to have been burnt by the Engliſh, have ſince been equipped and ſent to ſea.

ney Smith, then acting as a volunteer, and three ſail of the line and four frigates were carried away.

Immediately after theſe memorable exploits, Lord Hood quitted the outer bay of Toulon, and rendezvouſed with his fleet at the Hieres, where they were lucky enough to ſhelter themſelves during a very heavy gale of wind.

But it was not to the capture of this great arſenal, that the admiral confined his exploits. Early in the ſame year, he had blockaded the port of Genoa, which was loudly exclaimed againſt at that period, as an infringement of the law of nations, and a groſs violation of the neutrality of that petty, but *then* independent, ſtate. Our fleet in the Mediterranean alſo bridled the grand Duke of Tuſcany, and forced him into compliances which, had it not been for his powerful family alliances, might have ended in the annihilation of his ſovereignty.

In February, his lordſhip had alſo made an unſucceſsful attack on the iſland of Corſica; from which he was obliged to deſiſt in conſequence of a violent gale of wind, which drove him to ſea; and on the 29th of the ſame month he anchored at Porto Ferrajo. The next attempt on Corſica proved infinitely more fortunate; for that little ſtate, which Genoa affected to denominate a kingdom, and which conferred "a "barren crown" on the head of Theodore, was annexed, for a ſhort time, to the dominions of

Great

Great Britain; but after ſwallowing up immenſe wealth, it was *happily* for the nation wreſted from us by the enemy.

After performing theſe ſervices, Lord Hood retired to his native land; and notwithſtanding he is now in the vale of years, he is equally ready, as before, to hoiſt his blue jack, and command the ſquadrons of his country.

His majeſty at all times has been eager to reward his merits. He was created a baronet when the king viſited the fleet at Portſmouth, in 1783, at which time he was port-admiral there, in the room of Admiral Pye, then lately deceaſed; in September, in the ſame year, he became a baron of Ireland; and on May 28th, 1796, a viſcount of Great Britain. His lady was created a peereſs of Great Britain, March 27th, 1795, and his brother, Alexander-Arthur, Admiral of the White, Vice Admiral of Great Britain, a Knight of the Bath, and Baron of Great Britain, May 28th, 1796.

The heralds, in alluſion to the element on which he has diſtinguiſhed himſelf, have given him a *brace* of mermaids for ſupporters; and the motto

"VENTIS SECUNDIS,"

muſt be allowed to be peculiarly appropriate.

GILBERT WAKEFIELD, B.A.

THIS gentleman boaſts a name well known in the annals of claſſical literature; it is alſo intimately connected with the queſtions that have lately agitated the minds of the THINKING part of the community, on the ſubject of religion; nor has it been unaccompanied by celebrity in the field of political controverſy. Reſpecting ſuch a perſon, the opinions of his fellow-citizens will be as various, perhaps, as their principles. Our judgment, too often, *cameleon-like*, borrows its deciſions from the hue of party; and, unfortunately, we are never leſs candid, than when political and religious enmities warp around, and pervert the mind from its natural bias towards juſtice.

An outline of Mr. Wakefield's life has already been laid before the public by himſelf *, and from it we learn, "that he was introduced into this planet on February 22d, 1756, in the parſonage-houſe of St. Nicholas, in Nottingham, of which church his father was then rector." It appears that his paternal grandmother claimed her deſcent both from the Ruſſell family, the illuſtrious head of which, in the reign of the ſecond Charles, bled for the cauſe of freedom; and that great lawyer, Sir Edward Coke, the latter part of whoſe life was devoted to the

* "Memoirs of the Life of Gilbert Wakefield, B.A." 1 vol. 8vo. 1792.

liberties

liberties of his country. With ſuch progenitors, added to a ſpirit of liberal enquiry, it is but little wonder that he ſhould dare to think for himſelf, and become a ſtickler for the popular cauſe!

On his origin, however, Mr. W. does not ſeem to plume himſelf:

" Malo pater tibi ſit Therſites, dummodò tu ſis
" Æacidæ ſimilis, Vulcaniaque arma capeſſas;
" Therſitæ ſimilem quàm te producat Achilles."

" Give me Therſites' ſon, who bravely wields
" Vulcanian armour in embattled fields,
" Before Therſites of Achilles' line,
" Degenerate offspring of a fire divine!"

From his earlieſt infancy, the ſubject of theſe memoirs appears to have evinced a diſpoſition of mind uncommonly grave and ſerious. In addition to this, he diſplayed an ardent thirſt for knowledge, ſeldom equalled, perhaps never ſurpaſſed in any human boſom; and what is truly wonderful, it has always continued unimpaired to this hour. At the age of three years and three months, when he went to the ſchool of an ancient female, ſtill in exiſtence, he could ſpell the longeſt words, repeat his catechiſm without heſitation, and read the goſpels with fluency;—for this early proficiency, he was indebted to the attention of a kind mother. During the following Whitſuntide holidays, and at Chriſtmas in the ſame year, he diſplayed a memory equally precocious.

When he had attained his ſeventh year, he was initiated in the Latin language, at the free-ſchool of Nottingham, under the Rev. Dr. Samuel Beardmore,

afterwards maſter of the Charter-houſe; but to this reſpectable ſcholar and gentleman, whom he characteriſes "as an acrimonious divine," he diſavows any obligations whatever, and, after a lapſe of thirty years, he ſtill recollects his threats.

At the age of nine he was removed to Wilford, near Nottingham, then under the direction of a preceptor of different character, a man of unparalleled ſimplicity of manners; he erred, however, in being "righteous overmuch," for he ſubjected the pupils to a rigorous confinement, of no leſs than thirteen hours daily; with the intermiſſion of only one hundred and twenty minutes, for breakfaſt and dinner. This practice is unfavourable to health, and militates againſt the ſalutary maxim of the Roman poet:

"Et puer es; nec te quicquam, niſi ludere, oportet;
"Lude; decent annos mollia regna tuos."

On the elder Mr. Wakefield's promotion to the vicarage of Kingſton, he was removed from reſtraints too irkſome, even for a boy of his application, and placed under his father's curate. There, again, he was unfortunate, for his new preceptor proved to be one of thoſe "pedagogical Jehus," ſatiriſed by a great Engliſh* divine; and, indeed, it is not a little remarkable, when the importance of the ſubject is conſidered, how few are qualified for

* See the diſcourſe on "Education" (in his printed ſermons, 6 vol.8vo.), by Dr. Robert South, public orator of the univerſity of Oxford, prebendary of Weſtminſter, &c. &c. an able man, and a great time-ſerver, but who in thoſe could not get a biſhoprick!

the

the taſk of inſtruction, and how careleſs parents in general are, reſpecting the choice of thoſe who are to form the infant minds of their offspring.

At the age of thirteen, Mr. Wakefield, at length, found in the perſon of the Rev. Richard Woodde-ſon, father of the preſent Vinerian profeſſor, a pre-ceptor better ſuited to his taſte, at leaſt ſo far as diſcipline was concerned. His academy ſeemed a kind of *hot-bed* for ſeedling authors; Meſſrs. Stee-vens, Keate, Gibbon, Hayley, and Baron Maſeres, being all nurtured there; yet he himſelf, hardly ever publiſhed any thing, and his ſtore of Latinity does not appear to have been great; but he poſ-ſeſſed a benignant temper, and although armed with a *ferula* to the *full* as awful as the ſceptre of a deſpot, his was a gentle reign.

After taſting the ſtreams of Greek and Roman literature at their fountain head, his parents began to think of ſending him to the univerſity, on which a ſtudentcy in Chriſt church, Oxford, was offered him; this he *luckily* eſcaped, in conſequence of his father's predilection for his own college; and it ſtill ſeems to afford a ſubject of exultation to the ſon, even in his riper years; as "orthodox theology, high church politics, and paſſive obedience to the powers that be, ſit enthroned," according to him, in a ſeminary, once "nutrix heroum," the vene-rable nurſe of Somers, Hales, Selden, Chillingworth, and Locke.

At length he obtained a ſcholarſhip in Jeſus' college, Cambridge; and it ſo happened, that he exactly

exactly ſuited the intention of the founder, who preferred "the ſon of a living clergyman, born at Nottingham," both of which conditions, as may have been obſerved, happened to be united in him.

As ſoon as he was ſettled at the univerſity, Mr. W. reſumed his claſſical ſtudies, which had ſuffered a long ſuſpenſion, in conſequence of a putrid ſore throat and fever, followed by a vacation of ſeveral months. The college lectures in algebra and logic were, however, particularly odious to him. So enamoured was he of claſſic ground, that it was long before he could prevail upon himſelf to approach the leſs inviting regions of ſcience and philoſophy. At laſt, however, he overcame his prejudices, and actually opened Euclid, "the old carpenter," as he was jocularly termed by a young man, who, like himſelf, had become a mathematician by compulſion.

During a five years' continuance at Cambridge, he roſe by five o'clock in the morning, during both winter and ſummer; but notwithſtanding this, which implies a ſevere attention to ſtudy, he was fond of ſociety at his meals.

In the third year of his reſidence, he became a candidate for Dr. Browne's three medals, and accordingly produced a couple of odes in Greek and Latin, and alſo a pair of epigrams; the firſt and laſt exerciſes, according to his own opinion, were unworthy of the reward, but he thought he was hardly uſed reſpecting the Horatian ode; and had not the ſon of Dr. Cooke, then provoſt of King's,

been

been a claimant at the ſame time, it is highly probable, that he would have ſucceeded.

His academical ſtudies had hitherto refuſed leiſure for theological enquiries; a branch of learning, which his native ſerioufneſs of diſpoſition, and his ſpirit of enquiry rendered peculiarly appoſite. At laſt, during the long vacation of 1775, he began to cultivate Hebrew, without the aid of which, he deemed an acquaintance with the text of the new teſtament impoſſible.

On January 16th, 1776, he took his degree of B.A. with ſeventy-four other candidates for academical honours; and, on this occaſion, he was nominated to the ſecond poſt. Soon after this, (April 16th) he was elected fellow; and, in the courſe of the ſame year, he printed at the univerſity preſs, a ſmall collection of Latin poems, with a few notes on Horace, by way of appendix.

In 1777, he obtained the ſecond of the four yearly prizes, preſented by the members for the univerſity. In 1778, he finiſhed an exerciſe, at inns, &c. during a journey, which he had begun at college; this he truſted to the fidelity of a croſs-country waggoner, and firſt learned his ſucceſs through the medium of a London newſpaper! He thus appears to have been *ſecond* wrangler, *ſecond* medalliſt, and *ſecond* in the bachelor's prize for both years.

On the 22d of March, 1778, he was ordained a deacon by Dr Hinchliffe, biſhop of Peterborough, in the chapel of Trinity college, at the age of twenty-

twenty-two years and one month. It would appear, that previouſly to this period, the ſtudent had enquired into the nature and tendency of ſubſcription, having ſince regarded his acquieſcence, in this point, as the moſt diſingenuous action of his whole life; and ſtigmatiſed ſome of the articles, as "unſufferably ſtupid, beyond the ſottiſhneſs "of even Hottentot divinity."

On April 14th, Mr. W. left the univerſity for the curacy of Stockport, in Cheſhire.

He did not, however, remain long here, for we find him, ſoon after, with his brother at Richmond, decidedly averſe to the renewal of ſubſcription, and embarraſſed at the idea of eccleſiaſtical functions.

It is not a little remarkable, that Mr. W. ſeems, on this occaſion, to have been nearly in the ſame dilemma, in which a member of the very ſame univerſity, and aſſuredly the greateſt genius of his age, found himſelf about a century and a half before; for Milton thus expreſſes himſelf, without any ſcruple on the occaſion, to a correſpondent who wiſhed him to take orders, "to which," ſays he, "by the intention of my parents, and my friends, I was deſtined of a child, and in mine own reſolutions, till coming to ſome maturity of years, and perceiving what tyranny had invaded the church, that he who would take orders, muſt ſubſcribe ſlave, and take an oath withal, which, unleſs he took, with a conſcience that could retch, he muſt either ſtrait perjure or ſplit his faith; I thought it better to prefer a blameleſs

a blameleſs ſilence before the office of ſpeaking, bought and begun with ſervitude and forſwearing*."

Every conſcientious reſolution, more eſpecially when in evident oppoſition to ſelf-intereſt, favours of magnanimity; and ſuch was actually the caſe in both inſtances. Shut out from church preferment by principle, Mr. W. bethought himſelf of a leſs lucrative ſituation, and accordingly applied for Breewood-ſchool, in Staffordſhire, which he moſt probably would have *obtained*, had it not been, that, even in this inſtitution, ſubſcription was actually neceſſary, as if education were indiſſolubly connected with the eſtabliſhed faith!

Soon after this diſappointment, he accepted a curacy at Liverpool; and having here probed the creed of his forefathers to the quick, his reſolution of detaching himſelf altogether from the church, became daily ſtrengthened; notwithſtanding this, he continued to preach a little longer, and his diſcourſes ſeem to have had ſuch an affect, even in that place, that one merchant (wonderful to tell!) was actually perſuaded, at the interceſſion of his wife, to ſell his ſhare in a privateer. Would to God, that he could have prevailed on all the people of this ſecond Nineveh to have relinquiſhed their traffic in human blood!

On March 23d, 1779, he vacated his fellowſhip by marriage.

* "Reaſon of Church Government," B. II. p. 41. edit. 1641, in 4to. See alſo the Hollis edition of Milton's proſe works, page 6.

About

About the ſame time, he exchanged the curacy of St. Peter's for that of St. Paul's, where he had more leiſure for his ſtudies. From a humble attempt to eſtabliſh a day-ſchool, he was diverted by an offer of the tutorſhip of the claſſical department at Warrington academy, in Lancaſhire, whither he removed in Auguſt, 1779. In this ſeminary, where he ſeems to have lived in great cordiality with his colleagues, he commenced his theological career, as an author, by a new tranſlation of "the firſt Epiſtle of Paul to the Theſſalonians," which appeared in 1781. A few months after, he publiſhed his "Eſſay on Inſpiration;" on which ſubject, he ſeems to agree with Dr. Geddes, the learned tranſlator of the Bible; then his treatiſe on "Baptiſm," begun and completed in nine days. Next year, his "New tranſlation of St. Matthew," with notes, &c. made its appearance; and this was finiſhed within the compaſs of a few weeks.

In addition to theſe labours, he cultivated his acquaintance with the original Hebrew text of the old Teſtament, learned the Syriac and the Chaldee, acquired the Samaritan character, read the Pentateuch therein, and the Syro-Chaldaic verſion of it; to theſe were added the Æthiopic, Arabic, and Perſic; laſtly, he obtained a facility in the Coptic verſion of the New Teſtament, and made ſome improvements in the lexicon and grammar of that language. When to all this are added the daily avocations of a teacher, he muſt

be

be allowed to have achieved more than Herculean labours!

On the diſſolution of the Warrington academy, a removal took place in the autumn of 1783, to Bramcote, within four miles of Nottingham, where Mr. W. endeavoured, but in vain, to procure a few reſpectable pupils. In this rural retreat, he publiſhed the firſt volume of "An Enquiry into the Opinions of the Chriſtian Writers of the three firſt Centuries, concerning the Perſon of Jeſus Chriſt;" but notwithſtanding the commendation of many excellent judges, he was not encouraged by the ſale, to proceed with the continuation.

We find him a ſecond time, in May, 1784, fixed at Richmond, advertiſing for pupils, and renewing his applications to his friends. At Michaelmas, we again hear of him in his native town of Nottingham, and there he had three or four pupils under his care for ſeveral years, on very handſome terms; and about this time, he was elected an honorary member of the Philoſophical Society of Mancheſter, in conſequence of his "Eſſay on the Origin of Alphabetical Characters."

In 1786, he was ſeized with a pain in his left ſhoulder, and remained ill for two years, during which period he ſeems to have ſoothed his mind by "Remarks" on Mr. Gray's poems, and a new edition of the Georgics of Virgil, accompanied with criticiſms. In the beginning of 1788, he attacked Dr. Horſley, whom he deſignates as "not the leaſt conceited and audacious controverſialiſt

of

of ancient or modern days;" and in the autumn of the ſame year, he let off a fly cracker againſt the church, under the title of "Four Marks of Anti-chriſt, or a Supplement to the Warburtonian Lecture."

The year 1789 uſhered in his "Remarks on the Internal Evidence of the Chriſtian Religion;" and alſo the firſt part of "Silva Critica," The latter, which is from the Cambridge preſs, was publiſhed with a view to unite theological with claſſical learning, and to illuſtrate the ſcriptures by light borrowed from the philology of Greece and Rome.

On the eſtabliſhment of the new college at Hackney, Mr. W. was deemed a proper perſon to fill the office of claſſical inſtructor; and he was at length appointed to this ſtation, in July, 1790. His connexion, however, with the inſtitution, was diſſolved at the end of eleven months, having retired in June, 1791: the ſeminary did not long ſurvive this loſs.

Towards the latter end of the ſame year, appeared his "New Tranſlation of the Teſtament, with Notes," in three volumes, 8vo.; in a few weeks after, he publiſhed his pamphlet on "Religious Worſhip;" and in March, 1792, he favoured the world with "Memoirs of his own Life."

After a pretty conſiderable interval, in 1794, appeared "The Spirit of Chriſtianity compared with the Spirit of the Times in Great Britain;" this is a politico-religious pamphlet, in which the author,

thor, with a manly freedom, enquires how far the public meaſures of the government, in the origin and continuance of the preſent war, are congenial to the precepts and the ſpirit of the goſpel. Much about the ſame time appeared the firſt volume of a new edition of " The Works of Alexander Pope, Eſq. with Remarks and Illuſtrations." On this occaſion, notwithſtanding his taſte for the poets of antiquity, he allows that Pope ſometimes tranſcends even the original, particularly in the following four lines in his tranſlation o Homer, deſcribing the buckler of Achilles:

" Thus the broad ſhield complete the artiſt crown'd
" With his laſt hand, and pour'd the ocean round:
" In living ſilver ſeem'd the waves to roll,
" And beat the buckler's verge, and bound the whole."

" This is truly poetry to the life," added he:

" Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn."

The ſame year alſo beheld " An Examination of the Age of Reaſon," in which, although Mr. W. boldly and ably defended Chriſtianity, yet by conceding ſuch parts of the ſyſtem as were un ſupportable by ſound reaſon, and more eſpecially by conſidering *national churches* not only " as hay and ſtraw, which might be removed without any difficulty, or confuſion, from the fabric of religion," but as an " incruſtation which has enveloped, by gradual concretion, the diamond of chriſtianity," he gave offence rather than ſatisfaction to the eſtabliſhed clergy, who did not chooſe that even their

faith ſhould be defended at the expence of their tythes. This was ſoon followed by "Remarks on the General Orders of the Duke of York;" in which, although the author ſtill contends againſt the juſtice of the war, he is yet candid enough to allow the conduct of his Royal Highneſs, on this occaſion, to have been great and magnanimous.

In 1795, appeared a ſmall volume of "Poetical Tranſlations from the Ancients," and alſo "A Reply to Thomas Paine's ſecond Part of the Age of Reaſon;" in the latter of which the beſt friends of Mr. W. while they allowed his talents, lamented that he did not defend Chriſtianity with more of its genuine ſpirit. The author himſelf diſſented from the diſſenters—and why could he not allow another man to diſſent from him?

Perſevering with unabated ardor in his career, in 1796, came forth his "Reply to the Letter of Edmund Burke, Eſq. to a noble Lord;" in which he once more exhibited himſelf as a dauntleſs champion in the field of liberty, againſt a man whoſe rapturous eloquence had formerly excited his warmeſt panegyrics. He alſo publiſhed an octavo volume of "Obſervations on Pope," in the courſe of the ſame year.

"A Letter to Jacob Bryant, Eſq. concerning his Diſſertation on the War of Troy," at length appeared; however heterodox the author might be in matters of faith, he was here a zealous oppugner of all hereſies from the received claſſico-orthodoxical opinion. Another letter, on a very different

ſubject,

ſubject, addreſſed to Mr. Wilberforce, reſpecting his "Practical View of the prevailing religious Syſtem of profeſſed Chriſtianity," &c. was publiſhed in 1797. In this he exhibits the flagrant falling off in point of "vital chriſtianity!" between the religioniſt and the politician, the favourer of war, and the oppoſer of the ſlave-trade. In a former publication*, he had moſt forcibly characteriſed the ſame gentleman, "as a politico-theological ſatyr, with one breath cooling the burning anguiſh of the African, and with another, in the ſame inſtant, blaſting the ſpring from the year, by giving his vote to an abandoned miniſter, for the extirpation of half the youth of Europe, by the ſword!"

Early in 1798, appeared "A Reply to ſome Parts of the Biſhop of Landaff's Addreſs to the People of Great Britain." This pamphlet, which exhibits much perſonal reſpect to Dr. Watſon, has become a Pandora's box, and produced an infinite variety of evils; it has been even thought to commit the ſafety of the ſtate. Two convictions have already taken place, on the part of the two bookſellers, neither of whom were the original publiſhers; and it is not a little memorable, that it appeared, on the oath of an unobjectionable witneſs, that one of theſe (a man of unimpeachable morals, and moſt reſpectable character) was igno-

* "A Reply to the Letter of Edmund Burke, Eſq. to a noble Lord."

rant of the introduction of the pamphlet in queſtion into his ſhop, which happened to be brought thither on the ſuggeſtion of a ſervant, and was actually removed by the maſter, on hearing that it had been deemed libellous *.

It is but juſtice, however, to obſerve, that Mr. Wakefield came forward, on the proſecution of the original publiſher †: and manfully offered to immolate himſelf to the reſentment of the law officers of the crown:

"——————— in me convertite ferrum,
"O! Rutuli! mea fraus omnis:—nihil iſte nec auſus,
"Nec potuit———————,"

This *boon* being then denied, he ſoon after addreſſed "A Letter to Sir John Scott, on the ſubject of a late trial in Guildhall." On that occaſion, either not finding a bookſeller, who would endanger his liberty, or not wiſhing to bring any perſon but himſelf into jeopardy, the pamphlet was advertiſed to be ſold at his *own houſe*. In this publication he complaints, in language which has given great offence, that the attorney-general had weilded "the ſword of the law," with ſtern ſeverity; and in reply to an extra-judicial opinion from the bench, he ſets the ſaying of an Athenian lawgiver, in oppoſition to the opinion of a Britiſh judge.

* The writer of this memoir was preſent in court, and lamented greatly, that Mr. Erſkine did not make his chief ſtand on the grand diſtinction between the agency of a ſervant, *civiliter and criminaliter*; as the principal is implicated only in the firſt, and not in the ſecond inſtance, which includes *libels*.

† Mr. Cuthell, who as well as the author, have been lately convicted.

Undaunted

Undaunted by the threats of profecution * uttered in open court, and before his own face, by Sir John Scott, Mr. Wakefield, ſince this epoch, has been employed in a controverſy with a Dr. Glaſſe, reſpecting the priſon in Cold Bath-fields. Certainly the ſpirit of our laws diſclaims every idea of torture, in reſpect to all perſons, and cloſe impriſonment in regard to political offenders in particular. Indeed, the latter, during the reign of Charles I. became the ſubject of enquiry and complaint, and was at length redreſſed. In other days, the rumours that have gone forth, concerning this new-fangled mode of dureſs, would, long ere this, have become a ſubject of parliamentary inveſtigation; and it is to be hoped, that even the preſent age is not ſo degenerate, if a real grievance ſhould be found to exiſt, as to permit our mild, humane, and excellent code to be perverted with impunity.

Mr. Wakefield, who now awaits the ſentence of the court of king's bench, reſides at Hackney with his amiable family, conſiſting of a wife, formerly Miſs Watſon (niece to his quondam rector), four ſons and two daughters. In perſon, he is about the middle ſize; and there is an air of primitive ſimplicity in his countenance, and ſomewhat of an *apoſtolic* caſt about his face, ariſing, perhaps, in ſome degree, from his high and poliſhed forehead, and the baldneſs of his front and temples.

In converſation he is remarkably mild and gen-

* He has ſince been ſerved with an information *ex officio*, tried and convicted.

tle, and his manners are pleaſing. His memory is ſo uncommonly tenacious, that it can retain minute facts, and even dates, after a conſiderable lapſe of time. No man is more beloved and reſpected by a very extenſive circle of acquaintance. His perſonal activity is equal to that of his mind and pen. His habits are ſtrictly domeſtic and literary. He is a pattern of abſtemiouſneſs, and ſhares in its happy reſults; never partaking of ſtrong liquors; and, from a laudable principle of humanity, totally abſtaining from the uſe of animal food. Mr. W. muſt, even by his enemies if they know him perſonally, be pronounced to be a man whoſe conduct is ſolely actuated by principle, and an inflexible love of virtue. He may err, but his faults ariſe not from the depravity of his heart—they can only reſult from too ardent an imagination, or from the miſtakes of his judgment. S.

MR. OPIE.

NEITHER the parents, nor the education, nor the fortune of this eminent artiſt, would have conferred on him any diſtinction in ſociety, and like the Engliſh painters of the laſt century, he might have worked at ſo much by the *ſquare yard*, had not nature conferred on him a portion of genius that ſoon diſtinguiſhed him from the vulgar herd.

Seemingly doomed, by inevitable circumſtances, to work at the bottom of a ſaw-pit, or on the roof

of

of a houſe, juſt as the avocations of a country carpenter required, he yet found means to emerge from that ſituation, and to move in a reſpectable ſphere in life.

The late George Anderſon, A.M. and accountant-general to the Board of Control, contrived by chalking a few mathematical figures on the door of his brother's barn, in which he threſhed, to engage the attention of a benevolent patron, and to extricate himſelf from his mental bondage.

A ſimilar accident diſcovered the bent of John Opie's mind, and a painted board effected for him what a chalked-gate had done for his acquaintance, as Dr. Wolcott, who had himſelf a taſte for drawing, and lived in the neighbourhood, happened to ſee, and was pleaſed with the labours of the ſelf-taught boy, of whom he, perhaps, exclaimed:

"NON SINE DIIS ANIMOSUS PUER!"

He accordingly took him under his protection, cultivated his talents, pointed his efforts, and taught him to aſpire to fame and fortune. The maſter, with an aptitude bordering on the romantic, had transformed himſelf from a ſurgeon to a clergyman, and he now, with almoſt unexampled goodneſs, metamorphoſed the apprentice of a carpenter into an hiſtorical painter.

After ſome previous inſtruction, the pupil repaired to Exeter, where he began to earn a livelihood by his pencil. He then changed his place of abode, from a provincial city to the capital, and ſucceſſively

removed from a little court in the neighbourhood of Leiceſter-fields, firſt to Great Queen-ſtreet, and then to the politer air, and more faſhionable ſituation, of Berners-ſtreet. He had been four or five years in the metropolis, however, before he began to exhibit, as it was not until 1786, that any of his pictures appeared at Somerſet-houſe.

From that moment wealth and reputation ſeemed to attend his efforts; he was firſt nominated an academician elect, then a member of the Royal Academy, and what was infinitely more profitable, became a "faſhionable painter." For the Shakſpeare gallery he executed ſeveral pictures, and is generally allowed to excel in hiſtorical compoſitions.

His beggars, old men, old women, and aſſaſſins, are admirable. The portrait of Mrs. Wolſtoncraft, painted by him, excels in veriſimilitude; but his characteriſtical excellence conſiſts in ſtrength; and Reynolds himſelf, although he is praiſed for having transferred the ſoul into the countenance, could never give, perhaps, ſo bold and ſpirited a likeneſs of the male head, as Opie.

This artiſt has been twice married. His firſt match was unpropitious, and did not add much to his felicity; his ſecond wife (late Miſs Alderſon, of Norwich) is a moſt accompliſhed, and no leſs beautiful, woman; and we truſt that the union of painting and literature will contribute to the mutual happineſs of the parties.

LORD

LORD ROKEBY.

(With a Prefatory Diſſertation on Beards.)

THE *human beard*, at preſent deemed an unſeemly excreſcence, was conſidered by all the nations of antiquity as one of the greateſt ornaments of the perſon; and gods, as well as mortals, were ſuppoſed to be decorated with this emblem of wiſdom and virility. That of Aaron is deſcribed as flowing to his girdle, and the ambaſſadors of David, after having received the nearly indelible affront of being *ſhaved*, were adviſed to remain at a diſtance from the capital, until their beards had grown to the proper length. In many of the eaſtern countries this is ſtill conſidered as a neceſſary, and even a beautiful appendage; and while the Turks carefully cover with their turbans the hair that grows on their heads, they preſerve, comb, perfume, and oſtentatiouſly diſplay, that which ſprings from the chin.

The northern nations ſeem alſo to have evinced a great veneration for their beards, and it is not yet much above a century ſince theſe have fallen into obloquy and diſuſe even in this country: they are, however, ſtill retained by the *ſerfs* in Ruſſia and Poland, and by the *boors* in Norway.

In our own iſland, the upper lips and chins of the northern barons in the train of the Conqueror,

exhibited

exhibited a ſmall portion of beard, and the Saxo-Britons, who oppoſed them, had theirs ſtill better ornamented. After the introduction of linen, which was but little known in this country before the conqueſt, beards ſeem to have diſappeared by degrees, as if comporting only with the frowzy covering of a flannel ſhirt. We ſtill, however, find veſtiges of them even in more modern periods. That of James I. appears to have been broad and buſhy. During the civil wars, Charles I. is both painted and deſcribed as wearing a narrow-pointed beard appended to the lower part of his chin, and *muſtachios* on the upper lip; the great Algernon Sydney, in the plate engraved by Baſire, from a drawing of Cipriani, prefixed to the Hollis' edition of his works, ſeems to have worn *muſtachios* * only; but moſt of the republicans of that day actually nurſed their beards in proportion as they polled their heads.

Both the French and Auſtrians appear of late to have conſidered whiſkers as an appendage to the military dreſs, and from the inroads they have lately made in this country, on the human face, it bids fair to be ſoon nearly as much ſhaded by them as it was formerly by the beards.

Theſe preliminary remarks will not appear totally miſplaced, perhaps, to ſuch as are acquainted with the perſon of the noble lord whoſe memoirs

* The celebrated Sir William Temple, who flouriſhed at a later period, is painted by Sir Peter Lely with *whiſkers*.

are

are here offered to the public, as his beard forms one of the moſt conſpicuous *traits* of his perſon; and he is the only peer, and, perhaps, the only gentleman of either Great Britain or Ireland, who is thus diſtinguiſhed.

MATTHEW ROBINSON, Baron Rokeby of the kingdom of Ireland, and alſo a baronet, is deſcended from a very old and reſpectable family, being a branch of the Robinſons of Struan, in Scotland, whence his anceſtors emigrated about one hundred and fifty years ſince, and ſettled in Kent; they ſoon after acquired ſome lands in the north riding of Yorſkire, which came to them by an intermarriage with the heireſs of Robert Walters, of Cundall, in the latter end of the laſt century.

Sir Septimus Robinſon, Knt. father of the preſent peer, was gentleman uſher to George II. He gave his ſon, Matthew, a moſt excellent education, but it was, perhaps, never ſuſpected by the old courtier that he would become one of the moſt ſturdy patriots of his age, a "Whig," according to the real meaning of the word, and as ſuch an aſſertor of the true principles of Engliſh liberty, which called in William III. and placed the preſent illuſtrious family on the throne. After a good foundation of claſſical learning, he ſent him to Cambridge, where he remained for ſeveral years; and he appears to have made conſiderable progreſs in his ſtudies; for he procured a fellowſhip there, which he retains to this day.

In

In 1754, he ſucceeded, on the death of his father, to his eſtate in Eaſt Kent, and appears to have lived at his manſion there, with all the eaſy affluence, hoſpitality and ſplendor, that characteriſed the Engliſh gentry of that day, when a land-tax at about two ſhillings in the pound, and a trifling malt-tax, conſtituted their only burdens. During the winter, part of his time was ſpent in the capital; and in the ſummer ſeaſon, he was accuſtomed to paſs away a month or two at Sandgate-caſtle, where he enjoyed a charming proſpect of the coaſt of France; while ſea-bathing, to which he was much addicted, was to be had there in great perfection.

In conſequence of his vicinity to Canterbury, and a family connexion with that place *, he had many opportunities of cultivating an intimacy with the principal inhabitants. Being a man of engaging manners, ſhrewd ſenſe, and independent fortune, they determined to nominate him their repreſentative, on the firſt vacancy. He was accordingly brought into parliament by them, and he faithfully diſcharged all the important duties annexed to that ſituation, for a long ſeries of years.

We find Mr. Robinſon, during the whole of the American war, one of the moſt ſtrenuous op-

* This, until of late, was carefully kept up; his brother, Charles, who had been originally bred to the ſea, but afterwards became a lawyer, having been ſucceſſively Recorder, and one of the members for that city.

pugners

pugners of a meaſure pregnant with gigantic miſchief, and which, by the enormous increaſe of our national debt, generated oppreſſive taxes, and became the parent of incalculable misfortunes to ourſelves and our poſterity. Not content with oppoſing Lord North with his voice in the ſenate, he entered the liſts againſt him with his pen, and publiſhed a pamphlet, pregnant with ſound ſenſe, manly argument, and liberal ſentiment. In fine, it was then looked upon as one of the moſt able productions of that day; and it ſtruck the author of this narrative, who borrowed it, ſome years ſince, from one of his relatives, as a kind of *political prophecy*, of the calamities which actually aroſe out of a ſyſtem of taxation without repreſentation, and coercion without power.

He lived long enough to ſee all his predictions verified. Our legions either withered away in a diſtant country, or, if victorious, they only retained in ſubjection ſuch portions of territory as were covered with ſoldiery, or immediately adjoined the ſpot on which they encamped;—all elſe was hoſtile. Conqueſt itſelf became precarious, and defeat was inevitably attended with the endleſs variety of evils incident to diſaſter in an enemy's country. At length Burgoyne was captured at Saratoga; France declared herſelf in favour of the inſurgent colonies; Holland and Spain became our enemies; Cornwallis, who has ſince fought under better auſpices, in India and Ireland, laid down his arms to Rochambeau and Waſhington;

and

and a bleeding and exhauſted empire was obliged to accede to the humiliating, but neceſſary preliminary of American independence.

The eſcape of all the authors of that diſaſtrous conflict from puniſhment, and the ſpeedy reſtoration of one of them to power *, diſguſted many good men of that day; and it required, indeed, but little foreſight to preſage the many evils with which *impunity* was connected. Mr. Robinſon appears to have entertained theſe, or ſimilar ſentiments, and to have retired from the ſcene with a degree of virtuous indignation highly appropriate and becoming.

What contributed to this, perhaps, was his bodily infirmities. From his youth he had been ſubject to many ſevere fits of illneſs, and, in addition to theſe, his hearing and his ſight were conſiderably affected. In this ſtate of body and mind, he deemed it highly improper for him any longer to occupy a ſeat in parliament, as he could not either diſcharge his duties with fidelity to his conſtituents, or ſatisfaction to himſelf. Impreſſed with this ſentiment, he addreſſed a letter to the inhabitants of Canterbury, in which he took an affectionate leave of them, and is ſaid to have mentioned to one of the principal citizens (perhaps the late Alderman Barham), "that they ought to chooſe a "younger and more vigorous man, as a ſucceſſor; "—one who had eyes to ſee, ears to hear, and "lungs to oppoſe, the *tricks* of future miniſters!"

* Lord North, in conſequence of the memorable coalition!

From

From this period his hiſtory becomes that of a private gentleman. He reſided conſtantly at Mountmorris, and lived equally without oſtentation, and without meanneſs. He planted, improved, and embelliſhed. His houſe was open to all reſpectable ſtrangers, and he was much viſited, on account of the ſingularity of his manners, and the ſhrewdneſs of his remarks. A great friend to agriculture, his tenants in him experienced a moſt excellent landlord. As for himſelf, he ſeems to have baniſhed the deer from his park, as an unprofitable luxury, and to have ſupplied their place with black cattle and ſheep, of which great numbers are always to be ſeen there.

It was moſt probably about this time that Mr. Robinſon firſt permitted his beard to grow; for it muſt have taken many years to attain that *patriarchal* length which it at preſent aſſumes. He alſo addicted himſelf to many other ſeeming ſingularities; and imagining, perhaps, that ſea-bathing was good for the diſorder * he was chiefly afflicted with, he built a little hut on the beach near Hythe, about three miles from his own houſe, in order to enjoy the advantages reſulting from it. It is moſt likely, however, that he indulged to exceſs in this *medicine*, for he frequently remained in the water until he fainted.

Finding the diſtance too great, perhaps, for

* A diſeaſe of the inteſtines.

him

him to walk *, he conſtructed a bath, ſo contrived as to be rendered tepid by means of the rays of the ſun only; it is immediately adjoining to his houſe, and he has found prodigious benefit from frequent ablutions, or rather immerſions, therein †.

On

* He was generally accompanied in theſe excurſions by a carriage and a favourite ſervant, who got up behind when he was tired. Mr. Robinſon, with his hat under his arm, proceeded ſlowly forward, on foot, towards Hythe, realizing, as it were, the picture of Gray, in which he paints the venerable figure of one of the Welch poets:

——" Looſe his beard and hoary hair,
" Stream'd like a meteor to the troubled air."

If it happened to rain, he would make his attendants get into the poſt-chaiſe, obſerving, " that they were gaudily dreſſed, and " not inured to wet, therefore might ſpoil their clothes and get " ill."

† The writer of this ſketch, happening to be in the neighbourhood, towards the latter end of the ſummer of 1796, determined to ſee Mr. Robinſon, who had then acceded to the title of Lord Rokeby. On his way to Mountmorris, at the ſummit of the hill above Hythe, which affords a moſt delightful proſpect, he perceived a fountain of pure water over-running a baſon which had been erected for it by his lordſhip. He was informed that there were many ſuch on the ſame road, and that Lord R. was accuſtomed to beſtow a few half-crown pieces, plenty of which were always kept by him looſe in a ſide pocket, on any *water-drinkers* he might happen to eſpy partaking of his favourite beverage, which he was ſure to recommend with peculiar force and perſuaſion.

On my approach to the houſe, I ſtopped during ſome time, in order to examine it. It is a good plain gentleman's ſeat; the

grounds

On October 10th, 1794, he ſucceeded, by the death of his uncle, Richard Robinſon, Biſhop of Armagh, Primate of Ireland, and Baron Rokeby, of the ſame kingdom, to his honours as an Iriſh peer. The patent of creation was granted to that dignitary, February 26, 1777, and by it the remainder was to veſt in the preſent lord; but, as Mr. Robinſon was either angry that his nephew,

grounds were abundantly ſtocked with black cattle, and I could perceive a horſe or two on the ſteps of the principal entrance.

After the proper enquiries, I was carried by a ſervant to a little grove, to the right of the avenue, which being entered at a ſmall ſwing-gate, a building, with a glaſs covering, dipping obliquely towards the ſouth-weſt, preſented itſelf, which, at firſt ſight, appeared to be a green-houſe. The man who accompanied me opened a little wicket, and, on looking in, I perceived a bath immediately under the glaſs, with a current of water, ſupplied from a pond behind. On approaching a door, two handſome ſpaniels, with long ears, and apparently of King Charles's breed, advanced, and, like faithful guardians, denied us acceſs, until ſoothed into ſecurity by the well-known accents of the domeſtic. We then proceeded, and gently paſſing along a wooden floor, ſaw his lordſhip ſtretched on his face at the further end. He had juſt come out of the water, and was dreſſed in an old blue woollen coat, and pantaloons of the ſame colour. The upper part of his head was bald, but the hair on his chin, which could not be concealed, even by the poſture he had aſſumed, made its appearance between his arms on each ſide.

I immediately retired, and waited at a little diſtance until he awoke; when riſing he opened the door, darted through the thicket, accompanied by his dogs, and made directly for the houſe, while ſome workmen, employed in cutting timber, and and whoſe tongues only I had heard before, now made the woods reſound again with their axes.

Matthew Robinſon, Eſq. who ſat in the laſt parliament for Boroughbridge, in Yorkſhire, ſhould have been ſo poorly left, after the ſplendid hopes held out to him, or really entertained objections to titles of all kinds; certain it is, that he declined the honorary appellation, and is ſaid to have declared, that he could not, on any account, have accepted an Engliſh peerage, meaning thereby, perhaps, that he conſidered the former as merely *titular*.

Lord Rokeby is above eighty years of age; the under part of his body, by aſſuming a *curvature*, makes him appear ſhorter than he would otherwiſe be. There are certain oddities diſcoverable in his dreſs, which is always plain, and even mean; his forehead is bald, but, in return for this, the under-part of his face is well furniſhed with hair, which, however, gives ſomewhat of a ſqualid appearance to his whole perſon *. His food principally conſiſts of beef-tea, which is always ready for him on a ſide-board; and he is very abſtemious in reſpect to drink, water being eſteemed by him as ſuperior to all other liquids whatever. He abhors fires, and delights much in the enjoyment of the air, without any other canopy than the heavens; even in winter his windows are generally open. He was much attached to the fair ſex in his youth, and even now is a great admirer of female beauty.

* There is a pretty good likeneſs to be met with of Lord Rokeby, in the ſtationers' ſhops at Canterbury. It conſiſts of a half-length coloured print.

In

In reſpect to politics, his conduct through life, and to this very hour, has been eminently conſiſtent; it is to principles, not men, that he looks up; and he ſeems to conſider a Stewart, or a Guelph, entitled to our praiſe or our hatred, not on account of their names (for theſe have no magic with him!) but the difference of their reſpective modes of government.

At the laſt general election, he croſſed the country to Lenham, and at the *Chequers* inn, at which he halted, was ſurrounded by the country people from all the adjoining parts, who took him for a Turk! Thence he proceeded to the poll-booth, and gave his vote for his old friend Filmer Honeywood.

Prince William of Glouceſter being lately at Canterbury, conceived a prodigious inclination to pay a viſit to his lordſhip; and this being mentioned at Mountmorris, an invitation to dinner enſued.

On that occaſion Lord Rokeby preſided, with great good-nature, at a plentiful board, and evinced all the hoſpitality of an old Engliſh baron. Three courſes were ſerved up in a magnificent ſtyle, to his Royal Highneſs and his ſuite, and the banquet concluded with a variety of excellent wines, *tokay* in particular, which had been in the cellar during half a century!

Many ridiculous ſtories are fabricated reſpecting his lordſhip, and among others, that he will not permit any of his tenants to ſow barley, becauſe barley may be controverted into malt, and malt

would pay a tax towards carrying on the war, which he conceives to be an unjuſt one, &c. &c.

The family of Lord Rokeby has long poſſeſſed a literary turn, and he himſelf may be juſtly conſidered as a man of letters. It was a relative of his who wrote the celebrated treatiſe on *gavel-kind*. His eldeſt ſiſter, Mrs. Montague, has triumphantly defended the memory and genius of Shakſpeare, againſt the criticiſms, perhaps, of the greateſt man of the day*. His other ſiſter, Mrs. Scott, who died, in 1795, wrote ſeveral novels, ſome of which have attained conſiderable reputation; his nephew and ſucceſſor, Morris Robinſon, has a taſte for poetry; and Matthew Montague, the brother of the latter, and heir to the celebrated lady of the ſame name, is author of a pamphlet on Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration.

As for his lordſhip himſelf, he publiſhed the valuable, and now very *ſcarce* tract, alluded to before; and at an age when moſt old men think only of themſelves, he has not been inattentive to what he conſiders the deareſt intereſts of his country; having, in 1797, publiſhed an excellent pamphlet, entitled, "An Addreſs to the County of Kent, on their Petition to the King for removing from the Councils of his Majeſty his preſent Miniſters, and for adopting proper Means to procure a ſpeedy and a happy Peace; together with a Poſtſcript concerning the Treaty between the Emperor of

* Voltaire.

Germany

Germany and France, and concerning our Domeſtic Situation in time to come."

In ſhort, his lordſhip, *even independent of his beard*, which alone attracts the gaze of the multitude, may be conſidered as a very ſingular man.

He lives a conſiderable portion of his life in water, tempered by the rays of the ſun.

He travels on foot at a time of life when men of his rank and fortune *always* indulge in a carriage.

He is abſtemious, both in reſpect to eating and drinking, amidſt a luxurious age, wallowing in the exceſſes of both.

He has attained to great longevity, without having recourſe to the aid of pharmacy, and, indeed, with an utter contempt of the venders and practitioners of phyſic *, whoſe preſence he is reported to have interdicted.

He has written a ſenſible pamphlet, at an age when every other man (Cornaro, perhaps, only excepted) has relinquiſhed his pen.

By temperance, exerciſe, and perhaps, alſo, in conſequence of frequent bathing, his body is ſo braced, as to enable him to ſit in winter without a fire. He has alſo combated, during a long life, a

* I have heard that when *a paroxyſm* was expected to come on, his lordſhip has told his nephew, that if he ſtaid he was welcome; but that if he called in medical aſſiſtance, out of a falſe humanity, and it ſhould accidentally happen, that he (Lord R.) was not *killed by the doctor*, he hoped he ſhould have ſufficient uſe of his hands and ſenſes left to make a new will, and diſinherit him!

very

very infirm conſtitution, and a diſeaſe generally conſidered as fatal.

And laſtly, what is, perhaps, more ſingular than all the reſt, he has been *wonderfully* conſiſtent; for he has never once, in the whole courſe of his life, been found to ſwerve from his principles; in fine, he will carry to his grave the character of being virtuous and independent in a country becoming famous for its ſervility, venality, and corruption *.

May the day that is to put an end to his exiſtence be far off, and may his mind be cheered, at the laſt awful moment, with the recollection of his benevolence and his patriotiſm!

S.

* The reply of Lord Rokeby to a letter lately addreſſed to him by Lord Caſtlereagh, on the ſubject of the union with Ireland, is a production that would do honour to a man who had not paſſed his grand climacteric.

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"I cannot cloſe this paper without expreſſing my great ſatisfaction at having lately met with a Publication profeſſedly adapted for Young Perſons, which promiſes well to check the evil I have been complaining of, reſpecting other School-Books. From the plan and execution of it, I am warranted in giving it a ſtrong recommendation, as being moſt admirably calculated to cheriſh the beſt and moſt tried principles in young minds. The book which I have in my eye, is Dr. Mavor's "Britiſh Nepos, or Lives of Illuſtrious Britons." The perſons whoſe Memoirs this judicious Biographer has ſelected for the improvement and entertainment of Young Perſons, are thoſe who have filled up the moſt important Stations in Society, with the greateſt glory to themſelves and advantage to the State. The actions of theſe great men are told in a plain and pleaſing manner, and, what is no ſmall difficulty in a work adapted for juvenile capacities, the incidental reflections ſuggeſted by particular circumſtances or traits of characters, are ſo naturally made, that the reader cannot but feel the effect of the example, with a force equal to the pleaſure excited by the ſtory."

Chriſtian Spectator, No. IX.

"The patterns of excellence here placed before the eyes of young minds, are all diſtinguiſhed by ſuch talents and virtues, as every parent would wiſh ſucceſsfully cultivated by his offspring. The vices which here and there darken the picture, only render the luſtre of the whole the more ſufferable, and ſhade a brilliancy, otherwiſe both offenſive and inimitable. We know not, that from the ample circle of Britiſh biography, a more animating and improving ſelection could be made. The experience and acquiſitions of thoſe who have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in almoſt every public and private walk of ſociety, are thus held up, in minute traits, and beautifully coloured from nature, both for the entertainment and inſtruction of the riſing generation. And no exhibition occurs to our recollection, where a greater variety of uſeful and intereſting paintings from life, can be ſeen more readily, and at leſs expence: or to which the young, of all deſcriptions, may repair with a certainty of receiving more pleaſure and profit. The dedication and prefatory

prefatory addreſs, are well written. In the latter, the objects, uſes, and beauties of biography, are placed in a very maſterly point of view.

New London Review, for February.

We have been thus copious in our extracts from the preface, becauſe it at once diſplays the ſpirit of the undertaking, and affords a ſpecimen of our author's ſtyle. Fifty Lives of illuſtrious Britons are compriſed in this volume, commencing with ALFRED THE GREAT, and ending with the philanthropic HOWARD. The ſelection is extremely judicious, and the execution is correſpondent. The principles throughout are entitled to our unqualified praiſe; and we have no doubt the author wrote with a view to the inculcation of thoſe maxims, civil, moral, and religious, which have raiſed Great Britain to ſuch an exalted height among the nations of the earth, and the obſervance of which alone can perpetuate her glory and her proſperity. Did our limits permit, we ſhould have been happy to have given one of the Lives as a ſpecimen; but we have little doubt the whole will be read with avidity, and ſuperſede the neceſſity of our recommendation.

Young Gentleman's and Lady's Magazine for February.

A work of this deſcription has certainly been long wanted for the uſe of Schools. It is a well-ſelected and correctly-written ſeries of Lives, from that of ALFRED THE GREAT to that of HOWARD the Philanthropiſt. We notice it in the Ladies' Annual Regiſter, becauſe we deem it an excellent book for the ſchool-room, either in public ſeminaries or private families.

Ladies' Annual Regiſter, 1798.—*page* 130.

The characters here exhibited are very happily compreſſed, and diſplay a neatneſs ſurpaſſing any of our author's preceding labours. The ſelection is made with judgment, and the abſtract of each Life is a collection of traits ſo happily placed, as to have the beſt effect on young minds. In ſhort, we have here a very inſtructive compilation, both for old and young. It contains a great deal both of public and private hiſtory; and to the riſing generation in faſhionable circles, or the great world, the leſſons it teaches, and the information it affords, are of the laſt importance.

Ladies' Muſeum, February, 1799.

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